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THE TIMES

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45p

British Rail axes 5,000 on black day for jobs

■ The recession bit deep into British industry with nearly 10,000 job losses yesterday. Output figures added to the gloom and there were calls for an emergency employment programme

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND JILL SHERMAN

THE axe fell on nearly 10,000 workers yesterday as more firms buckled under the unrelenting pressure of the recession. British Rail stunned its workforce with a surprise announcement that it is to shed 5,000 jobs within four months, and there were further heavy cuts in the finance and construction industry.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is to reduce its staff by 3,500 over the next five years, the finance house Lombard North Central is shedding 400 and Eagle Star insurers are cutting 200 staff. Blue Circle, Britain's biggest cement maker, emphasised the depression in the building industry when it coupled an announcement that it was cutting 550 jobs with a prediction that demand would not return to 1989 levels this century. The excavator company JCB, Bamford

meeting of the BR Council in London, and union leaders described the decision as a total surprise. The cuts will take the workforce down to 128,000 by the end of the financial year in March and BR gave a warning that there would be further reductions in the next two years.

British Rail blamed "a massive drop in revenue due to the continuing recession" and also the "tight settlement" on the amount of money it would have available over the next three years. In his Autumn Statement last week, Norman Lamont announced a tiny increase in the railways budget — from £1.36 billion to £1.49 billion next year.

But BR said that income from Network SouthEast and InterCity was expected to be at least £100 million less than forecast, and Trainload Freight had lost income because of the effect of the recession on its main customers. That meant next year's income was likely to be £400 million less than had been forecast.

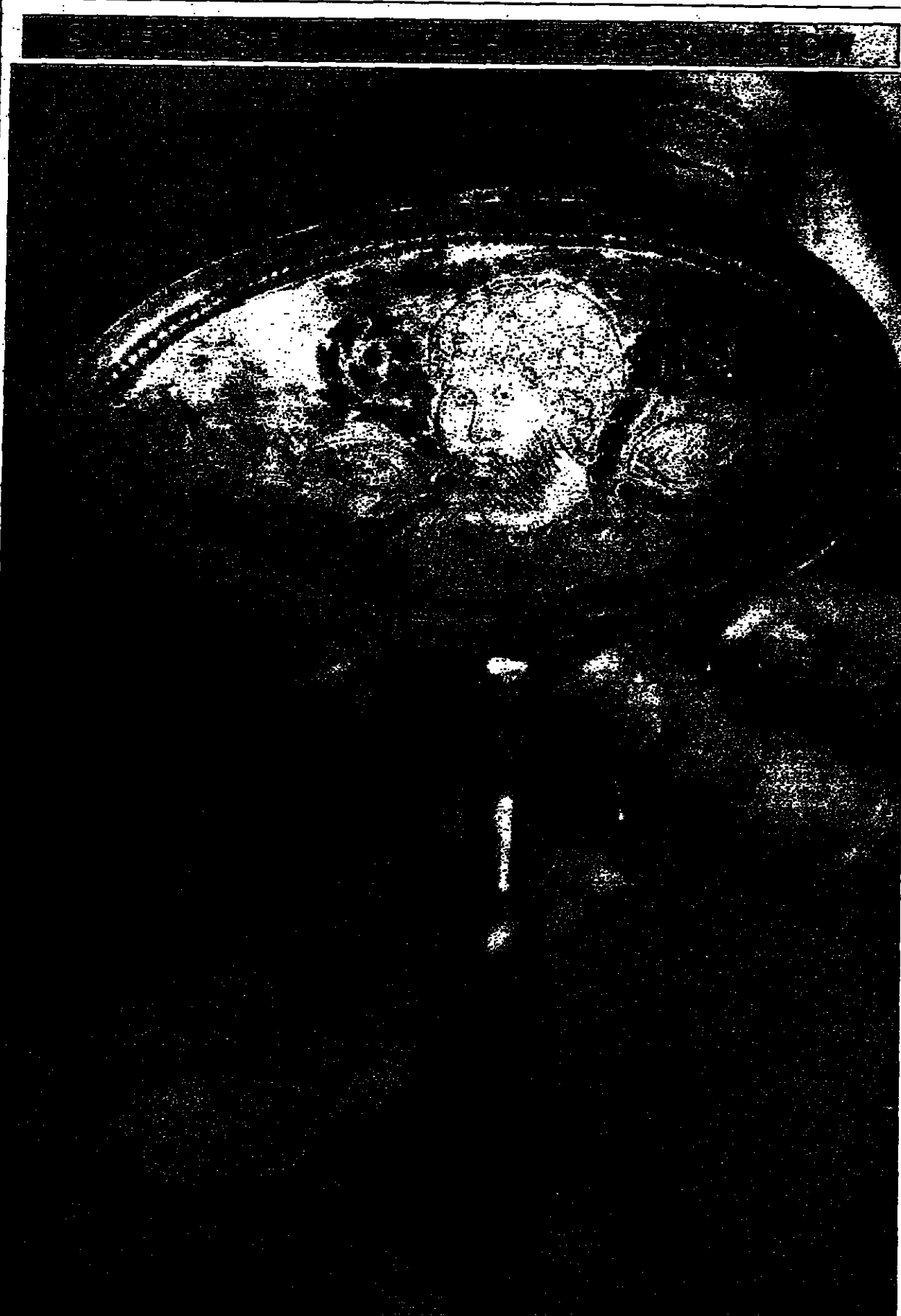
The job cuts will affect all areas, with half the redundancies hitting clerical, managerial and administrative staff. Most will leave through a voluntary severance scheme, but there will be some compulsory redundancies.

Rail unions blamed the cuts on a slimming-down exercise in the run-up to privatisation. Richard Rosser, general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, said: "The travelling public will be hit just as much as the staff. As well as further reductions in staff, it is clear that the board will be reducing the projected levels of investment in the industry."

While customers were facing fare rises of double the inflation rate, there would be cuts in infrastructure investment that was vital to the railways' long-term future.

Gordon Brown said yesterday's figures proved that the economy was not only still in recession but that the decline was sharpening. "When there are 250,000 jobs still at risk with the construction industry still expecting a further 50,000 jobs to go, the Autumn statement is unravelling more each day," he said.

Royal Bank cuts, page 23



Handle with care: a 4th-century late Roman silver-gilt strainer, its handle bearing a dolphin with garnets for eyes. The strainer, pierced with patterned holes, was part of the spectacular hoard

uncovered by a retired gardener, Eric Lawes, in a Suffolk field. Hailed as one of the most important finds made in Britain, the collection of thousands of gold and silver coins, jewellery, bracte-

lets, spoons and figurines was put on show yesterday by the department of prehistoric and Romano-British antiquities at the British Museum. Full glory, page 9. (Photograph: Simon Walker)

Hillsborough victim given right to die by High Court

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A LANDMARK High Court ruling yesterday that doctors could disconnect the feeding tube keeping alive Tony Bland, a Hillsborough victim, was greeted with overwhelming relief by the parents who have sought to let their son die with dignity.

The ruling, which paves the way for doctors lawfully to stop treating patients such as Mr Bland by cutting off their life-support systems, brought differing reactions from the professions and pro-life groups.

As the medical and legal professions endorsed the ruling as humane and right, groups such as Life pledged last night to fight it every step of the way as it goes up to the Court of Appeal and House of Lords. Keith Davies, for Life, said: "We believe this decision is unsafe and we will be using every legal, legitimate and democratic means to oppose it."

As he gave his far-reaching judgment Sir Stephen Brown, president of the family division, said of Mr Bland, 22, whose higher brain functions were destroyed in the football crush at Hillsborough in Sheffield three years ago: "May his soul rest in peace." The judge gave an unprecedented declaration that it would be lawful for doctors to stop feeding Mr Bland and allow him to die "peacefully with the greatest dignity and the least distress".

There was no possibility, he added, that Mr Bland, who has been in what is called a "persistent vegetative state" since the football crush would emerge. To his parents, Sir Stephen said, he was dead. "His spirit has left him and all that remains is

the shell of his body." Counsel for the Official Solicitor had claimed an act that caused death could never be lawful when death was the intended outcome. The parents of Mr Bland said they were hopeful of winning the appeal.

David Venables, the Official Solicitor, who represented Tony Bland's interests and who is to launch the appeal so that the law is clarified, said he regretted that this would "prolong the ordeal of Mr and Mrs Bland but this decision raises issues of such importance it is essential that the court's



Bland: "may his soul rest in peace"

decision should be considered by the Court of Appeal". The hearing is set for November 30.

The Airedale Trust, which made no application in court for the costs of bringing the case, undertook not to discontinue feeding Mr Bland pending the outcome of the appeal.

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BR regrets the delay of profits due to jobs on the line.

reinforced that view with a decision to cut 80 jobs. Unemployment is now almost certain to top three million by the new year, and government figures published yesterday added to the gloom, showing a 0.3 per cent fall in the country's output, excluding oil and gas production, over the past three months. Opposition parties seized on the figures to berate the government and Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, called for an emergency jobs programme "to remove the fear of unemployment which is still paralysing the economy in every part of Britain".

The British Rail cuts were announced during a routine

West Side Inside Story — now on at Her Majesty's Pleasure

THE show is *West Side Story*, the song is "Get Officer Krupke": a brilliant mockery of how authority figures — policeman, judge, psychiatrist, social worker — treat delinquents. In any reasonable production of the Bernstein/Sondheim musical, it stops the show. But few stagings can have injected quite the sardonic zest that it is getting tonight, this week and next in H.M. Prison, Wandsworth.

For these Jets and Sharks are convicts. They know a bit more than the average Equity card-holder about falling foul of authority. When they launch into the musical's opening sequence — brawls, tense expletives, a slashing knife — it is like a short fuse to a big explosion.

Pimlico Opera, a five-year-old professional company specialising in refreshing the parts other opera cannot reach, has worked with prisoners before. Last year's collaboration with lifers in



Richard Morrison joins a captive audience

Wormwood Scrubs culminated in a provocative staging of Sondheim's "social killer" musical, *Sweeney Todd*. That was well received, but *West Side Story* in Wandsworth prison is altogether livelier. The prisoners are not simply taking part; they act as if their lives depend upon it. Which, in a sense, they do.

Being in the audience, however, does instil an unease. You are already aware that you are entering the only British prison to have retained its gallows. You are led out from a gatehouse, through a gap in a towering security fence, across a garishly-floodlit exercise yard, and up a dingy staircase to "Gymnasium 1". The audience is backed up against two walls,

while the cast leap around on boards and scaffolding.

When you first arrive, you feel like one of those 18th-century dandies whose idea of amusement was to watch the inmates of Bedlam going about their wretched lives. The prisoners' self-penned biographies in the programme add to the sense of entering a world of grim sarcasms. Guy "came to Wandsworth shortly after appearing at the Old Bailey in 1991". Richard has apparently "done a lot of acting. If you take into consideration the times I was arrested". And Mitchell has "held down a few good jobs on Broadway... Cricklewood Broadway".

The audience responds warmly enough to the contributions of the young professional opera singers in the leading roles. But it is after the prisoners' chorus numbers, vigorously staged by Syd Ralph and backed by a 24-piece band conducted by

C of E has become a sect, says Leonard

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE former Bishop of London, the Right Rev Graham Leonard, who is preparing to lead hundreds of clergy and laity out of the Church of England as a result of the vote to admit women to the priesthood, said last night that the church had become a sect.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Graham said he could not remain permanently a member of the Church of England, which had "chosen to disregard the mind of the greater part of Catholic Christendom". He proposes that there should be a special rite (part of the Catholic Church for former Anglicans).

A leading traditionalist who has been in the vanguard of the opposition to women priests, Sir Graham said the Church of England had become an "inward-looking club" after the General Synod's vote to admit women to the priesthood.

He said that a church or rite

along the lines he proposed would have to be in communion with the Holy See of the Catholic Church, as has already happened with some Anglicans in America. He said the Anglican hierarchy would be unable to stop it "if it proved right and possible."

Sir Graham said the vote had been the last straw in a gradual liberalisation of the Anglican Church. He said he would continue in the Church of England for the time being, but could not see himself remaining a permanent member. "It has just chosen to do its own thing and in my judgment has become a sect," he said. "I can go on for the moment, but I cannot live in that as a permanent situation."

Pope Leo XIII declared

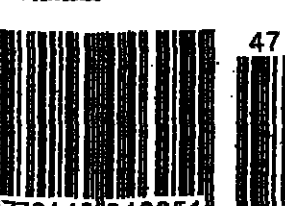
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Geneva 1855

Asprey

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صكزامن الاصل

Schools, politicians and councils attack errors in national leagues

Major denies exam survey was botched

By JOHN O'LEARY
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major yesterday dismissed charges that publication of the first school examination league tables had been "botched" by the government, as Labour demanded the withdrawal of the results.

More than 30 schools have complained to the education department about inaccuracies in their published results, and one is threatening to sue. However, ministers insisted that the number of mistakes was tiny in a collection of 250,000 statistics.

As Labour reported a flood of complaints from parents, governors, teachers and local education authorities about "disastrous" errors in the tables, the prime minister and John Patten, the education secretary, declared defiance that even more information would be published next year.

The final shape of the 1993 tables is yet to be determined, but national curriculum test results, attendance rates and data on the destinations of leavers will be included. An assessment of the value added by schools will be included in future years, when the same pupils' results can be compared at different points in their school careers.

Mr Patten reported to the cabinet yesterday on the exam tables, and is to appear before the Commons education committee next week to answer questions on the exercise.

As a political storm erupted yesterday, Mr Patten faced Labour calls to resign. Ann Taylor, the shadow education secretary, said that Labour had been "inundated with people in obvious distress".

The prime minister was challenged in the Commons by John Smith, the Labour leader, who said that the government was "so incompetent it cannot even produce an accurate record of the examination results".

A combative Mr Major said that Labour wanted to cover up the statistics and said: "The education service will never again be able to hide this important information. This is information that legitimately ought to be available to parents, is now available to parents and ought to continue to be available to parents."

The education department is investigating all complaints of inaccuracy before issuing erratum slips for local authority booklets. A spokesman said that at least 20 were found to be unsubstantiated after investigation by FMS Communications, the company that compiled the tables. When given the chance to correct figures before publication, schools had either missed deadlines or failed to provide the required evidence.

The original listings are already on their way to primary schools and public libraries.



Caning for Patten: the general opinion in the Henrietta Barnett School staffroom was critical of the education secretary

Errors in the School Report supplement to yesterday's Times will be corrected in tomorrow's paper.

Manchester High School for Girls threatened the government with legal action after its 100 per cent record for pupils scoring five or more top GCSE grades was officially recorded at just 16 per cent. The Royal Grammar School, Guildford, also missed the opportunity of inclusion in the list of England's best results when its 100 per cent top pass rate appeared as 93 per cent.

Cambridgeshire, which includes John Major's constituency, claimed to have detected 53 errors at first glance. The first pupils for 20 years to gain any GCSEs, or equivalent, at Holyport Manor, a special school for children with learning difficulties, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, went unreported because of administrative error.

The Royal Statistical Society said that it was "extremely concerned" and dismissed government policy as flawed.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "This one has blown right up in the government's face."

Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Walsend, questioned the government's decision to commission two private companies to compile the tables, rather than its in-house expert, the Central Statistical Office Survey Control Unit.

Teachers at top school give Patten poor marks for 'divisive' tables

By TIM JONES

HAMPSTEAD Garden Suburb in north London is where the security alarms on the homes of rich suburbia spring into view once the leaves have fallen from trees protecting well-manicured lawns.

Children who live there are, by most definitions, privileged. Many of them attend the Henrietta Barnett School for girls which has a reputation for academic excellence, discipline and achievement.

However, John Patten, the education secretary, would be wrong in assuming a warm welcome awaited him in the staff room.

Teachers there say his departmental staff could not even get their sums right in claiming that only 89 per cent of their pupils aged 15 who sat the exam achieved A-C passes in five or more subjects. The figure should be 96 per cent, they pointed out.

Far from praising his initiative in publishing schools' examination results, most of the staff were dismissive of the whole exercise. Teachers at the voluntary aided school, which only takes in girls who pass an entrance examination, believed the £1.4m estimated to have been spent in publishing three million booklets

could have been put to better use. There was an overwhelming consensus that the exercise would increase pressure on pupils and staff at "good" schools, create dissent among parents whose children went to "bad" schools while ignoring problems of underfunding and social background.

Wendy Smith, joint head of the sixth form said: "This is an exercise in statistics which must always be regarded with suspicion. Education is far more than a numbers game and must never be reduced to that."

Peter Salisbury, the school's information technology co-ordinator said: "Education is not about figures. It is about helping individuals to their own level of achievement and potential. The whole process of teaching appears to be misunderstood by the government. They appear to ignore the reality that a child, however good the teachers, must be affected by his or her socio-economic background. "If

each child was able to have spent on it the amount that government ministers spend in educating their children there would be far less of a problem."

Ines Van Dew Etering, a teacher, said: "The girls who come here are selected so of course their results will be better than those achieved at a comprehensive — you would expect that."

But the publication of these figures seems to indicate that exam success is all that is important. "Teaching is about helping people fulfil their potential. If a very bright pupil does very well that is fine, but it is to be expected. If a less bright girl does well then she and the teacher have been properly involved in the education process."

Bob Archer, who teaches modern languages said he used to teach at the Sydney Russell comprehensive school in Barking, where, according to the department, only 9 per

cent of children sitting the exam achieved 5 or more A-C grade level passes.

"It is an insult to suggest the teachers there are any less talented or dedicated than teachers anywhere. The fact is that many of them come from socially deprived backgrounds which places them at a disadvantage. Studying in the only room in a house with lots of other people present and with the television blaring is not a recipe for success."

John Windram, who teaches politics and economics, agreed with the socio-economic argument but said such statistics had a place if they were treated with caution.

"Of course there are wider arguments but the figures could be useful if they encourage parents whose children go to 'sink' schools to put more pressure on headteachers."

"Some heads appear to be very lax in what they expect from their pupils, so if these figures force a school to deliver more through parent pressure they may achieve some good."

Another teacher said: "The whole exercise appears to ignore the fact that this school is already full to bursting. If as a result of this table the parents of 200 children demand they come here where would we put them: on the roof?"

Tongue-tied over Tory sensitivities

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Jeremy Corbyn (Lab, Islington N) tackled the home secretary yesterday on training for interpreters. He was concerned for foreign asylum-seekers.

But if problems of communication were Corbyn's concern, why look further than the Chamber where he stood? Many MPs have difficulty with the English language. Take an answer I quoted last week, from the Leader of the House to a backbencher who had asked about the provision in offices of a TV "feed" from debate. Was this possible? This was Mr Newton's response:

"The desirability of conclusions on the sort of proposals which my hon friend has in mind is something of which we are all very much aware."

Happily, a team of interpreters skilled beyond even Corbyn's hopes is in attendance at Westminster. Hovering outside the Chamber like a platoon of the St John Ambulance Brigade is a crack team ready to rush MPs' prose off on stretchers, place it in intensive care, and transform it (for overnight publication) into something recognisable as human speech. The miracle workers are called Hansard.

A glance at column 622 of their report for November 9 reveals expert minor surgery on that sentence, rephrasing its sinews with minimum intrusion. A neat scalpel-cut has extracted "... is something of which" and tossed it (alongside another scrap of redundant gristle, "very much") into the bin. Then "we are all aware" has been delicately lifted from its location at the end of the sentence and placed at the beginning, before "the desirability..." etc. Finally, a small, sterilised preposition, "of," is inserted — and the prose is out of danger and as well as can be expected — given that it had nothing to convey.

Yesterday's questions to the home secretary yielded a new prose casualty. In the shape of Mr Harry Greenway (C, Ealing N), and

an example to us all of plain speaking in the shape of Mr Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N).

Marlow ("Are these young people not pseudo-macho little gits who get a kick out of crime and need a judicial thrashing to give them a kick of another sort?") needs no interpreter. But Greenway, who begins lucidly, deteriorates after Paddington. I'm afraid I must print the unexpurgated truth. The fainthearted should not read on...

"No one supports excessive speeding, however well [he] explain why people travelling through west London pass through no fewer than six spy camera zones between Paddington and the Target roundabout in Northolt and another six on the way back. In view of the importance of spy camera zones, why are not speed signs much clearer, and why are they placed level with the camera zones where they are shown? Is it police policy to prosecute drivers who are a few miles per hour above the speed limit or not? Finally, will the policy be to ensure that there is a proper space for downward transition on the A40 from high to low speeds — say from 60 to 40 mph — rather than the few yards that are provided in some places at present?"

This is trickier for Hansard because the grammar is fine: it is the meaning that is awry. We sense that Mr Greenway is really trying to say: "lay off the motorists a bit, Ken," but a Hansard reporter who wrote that would be rash.

Tories are tough on immorality generally but a little sensitive on questions relating to dangerous driving, alcohol, adultery, sharp practice in the City and the tragedy of drug abuse by the children of upper middle-class parents. Poor Greenway is caught between conflicting Tory sensitivities, and the agony swirls beneath the surface of his prose. He is rescued by incoherence. The more we read his phraseology, the more his problem shows.

Pit unions take their fight to High Court

The National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers fought side by side in the High Court yesterday to save pits threatened with closure. The rival unions asked two judges to block the "illegal, irrational and unreasonable" closure programmes proposed by British Coal and the government. Joined by the pit deputies' union Nacods, they were trying to overturn plans for the possible early closure of ten pits, arguing that the proper consultation procedures were not followed. The court's decision will also affect 21 other collieries, which are undergoing a fuller review of closure proposals.

Mr Johnny Veeder QC, for the UDM and nine representative union members, said that modified review procedures introduced in 1985 had been ignored by British Coal and Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade.

Hurd warns Libya

Libya faces a possible oil embargo over the Lockerbie airline bombing, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday, as Tripoli again said that it was willing to hand over the two suspects for a "fair" trial. In an interview published in the London-based Arabic newspaper al-Hayat, Mr Hurd urged Libya to hand over the suspects to avoid new sanctions and to let the United Nations Security Council lift the air traffic, diplomatic and arms sanctions. "I wouldn't want oil sanctions, but they are not ruled out."

Extradition case delay

Extradition proceedings in Gibraltar against Roderick Newall, right, accused of murdering his parents, were held up yesterday by legal argument over the admissibility of a tape recording of his alleged confession. Mr Newall, 27, is wanted by police in Jersey, where his parents disappeared five years ago. Judge Pizzarello is expected to announce his decision on admissibility today.



Scots papers turmoil

Mirror Group journalists in Scotland yesterday demanded a statement from David Montgomery, the company's chief executive, after reports that a £115 million investment was in jeopardy. The call came as Sir Kenneth Alexander, 70, resigned as director of the Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail following the departure of two other directors.

Acupuncture passes test

Clinical trials have revealed that electro-acupuncture, in which an electric current is passed through needles, is effective in treating aches and pains. Tomorrow's British Medical Journal reports that patients receiving proper acupuncture treatment responded dramatically while a control group given sham treatment failed to improve.

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THE WINES OF
Ernest & Julio Gallo.

Border checks may have to go

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE European Commission is threatening to withhold its blessing for Britain's demand to conduct minimal checks on people crossing its EC internal frontiers after December 31, officials confirmed yesterday.

This would be a potentially serious setback to Britain's hopes of retaining streamlined border controls at its air and sea ports after the planned abolition of the EC's internal frontiers at the end of the year. Consequently, while most EC countries seem content with the introduction of the open borders regime, Britain could find itself embroiled in a legal dispute with the European Commission over claims that it has failed to honour the

open borders provisions of the Single European Act.

Reports that Martin Bangemann, the EC's internal market commissioner, had accepted a British proposal to resolve the frontiers dispute now appear unfounded. That proposal, known as the Bangemann Wave, merely required visitors to Britain to display, or wave, passports while walking past customs and immigration checks. Herr Bangemann now says that the idea was never formally adopted by Brussels.

Commission officials now say, however, that frontier formalities must end in January under the act. The new hard line seems to have been inspired by the nine continental

members of the Schengen free travel zone, who object to Britain retaining controls.

Home Office officials say that nothing in the act nor in the Maastricht treaty deprives Britain of its right to conduct checks. They insist that, while the components of the EC's new external frontier, including a common visa and asylum policy remain to be agreed, keeping some border controls is essential to fight drug trafficking, terrorism, and illegal immigration.

The cost of a passport will rise by £3 to £18 on Sunday, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, announced yesterday. The cost of a British visitor's passport will rise £4.50 to £12.

Wandsworth rocks to West Side Story

Continued from page 1

Wasi Kani, that the place erupts. Glynedbourne it certainly isn't. Of course, the audience includes prisoners' wives, lovers and mothers. This seasoned critic would not have minded being detained at Her Majesty's pleasure: a little longer in this company.

Are operas in prison a good thing? The psychological effects of doing time are surely too complex for any snap judgments to be made. But this West Side Story does offer a salutary reminder that artistic vision is a strange plant: you can pour millions of pounds into a grand opera house and still not be sure of cultivating it; and then it springs up behind barred windows and locked doors.

Leonard proposes rite

Continued from page 1 Anglican orders "null and void" in a papal bull in 1896. Under Sir Graham's proposals, Anglican orders could be rectified in some way without requiring total repudiation. The rite would retain its own liturgy and would relate in some way to the local Roman Catholic hierarchy.

Sir Graham, whose proposals are published in *The Times* and *Catholic Herald* today, said: "One reason why I did this was because I really felt it had to be made clear that the people in favour just cannot think that they have only got to wait a little while and everybody will accept it and get used to it and there won't be any bother. I had to make it clear that there are some of us who feel it is not just the ordination of women. This is in a sense the climax of a whole process of undermining of the faith."

He went on: "I'm not prepared to be a leader at 71. Others would have to do that. I would hope that the person responsible would be someone appointed by the Roman Catholic Church." But, simply by raising the possibility publicly, Sir Graham is likely to become the temporary spiritual leader of would-be defectors, if not their leader in any future hierarchy.

He said the vote meant the end of the Catholic movement within the Church of England. Quoting Cardinal Newman, who left the Church of England for the Roman Catholic Church after founding the Oxford Movement, Sir Graham said the Church of England had become so liberalised that it would become an enemy of the truth.

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Judges allow doctors to let Hillsborough victim starve to death

By KATE ALDERSON

THE doctors caring for Tony Bland were told yesterday that it would be lawful to stop feeding him and let him die "peacefully with the greatest dignity and the least distress".

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the Family Division of the High Court, said that doctors could lawfully discontinue all treatment, including ventilation, nutrition, hydration and other medical treatment, because there was "no reasonable possibility of Anthony Bland ever emerging from his existing persistent vegetative state. May his soul rest in peace."

Sir Stephen said: "He has no feeling, no awareness, nor

can he experience anything relating to his surroundings. To his parents and family he is 'dead'. His spirit has left him and all that remains is the shell of his body."

The ruling is the first in an English court which allows a doctor to withdraw food and water from patients whose higher brain functions have been destroyed, and so grant immunity from a homicide prosecution.

James Munby QC, a representative of the Official Solicitor appointed by the court to represent Anthony, said that he would immediately lodge a notice of appeal which will be

heard on November 30. Sir Stephen said he hoped the matter could be resolved "speedily" because "from now on the anguish of the family will be great".

Tony Bland, 21, was in the stands at Hillsborough football ground on April 15, 1989, and suffered a severe chest injury which led to brain damage. He has remained in a state of complete unconsciousness for more than three years, a condition known as persistent vegetative state.

"All the higher functions of Anthony Bland's brain have been destroyed," said Sir Stephen. "There is no hope whatsoever of recovery or improvement of any kind. That is the unanimous opinion of all the distinguished doctors who have examined Anthony Bland."

Since May 1989, Tony has been under the care of Dr James Howe, a consultant geriatrician at Aldredale General Hospital, Keighley, West Yorkshire. Dr Howe told the court last week he would be the doctor to disconnect the feeding bottles when he and the family were ready.

Sir Stephen said it would take 10 to 14 days for Tony to die and the process would be that of starvation. "This would be unpleasant for those who had to observe it but Anthony Bland himself would be totally unaware of what was taking place."

"The case clearly raises serious moral, medical and ethical issues. However, none of the facts relating to the circumstances and the condition of Anthony Bland are in dispute. The key to the diagnosis is that, on clinical observation over a prolonged period of time, there is no evidence of a working mind."

Unlike less severely brain damaged patients emerging from a coma, the vegetative patient fails to regain any cognitive behaviour that would indicate function in the cerebral cortex, the grey matter responsible for consciousness, thinking, feeling and responding in meaningful ways to stimuli.

Because the brain stem still functions in Tony Bland, he has a wide range of reflex activity, including breathing and blinking. His condition is different to that of someone who has suffered "brain death" because his brain stem is still functioning.

Sir Stephen said that the approval of the court should be sought in cases of a similar nature "as a safeguard and for the reassurance of the public".

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Routine without hope: Allan and Barbara Bland

Parents hope decision will end their limbo

By JULIA LEWELLYN SMITH

THE High Court's decision to allow Tony Bland to die may eventually lead to an end to the twilight existence he has led since the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

His parents Allan and Barbara have visited him daily at their local hospital, at first hoping for some flicker of recognition and slowly realising that it would never come.

Their routine has been monotonous and without hope. Every day they have gone to the private room in Aldredale Hospital at Keighley, West Yorkshire, where their son lies in what doctors describe as a persistent vegetative state, attached to a feeding tube.

They talk to Tony, play his favourite tapes and turn on the television for every every major football match. An illusion of a daily routine is created by moving Tony from his bed to a wheelchair, to his bath and back again. Nurses shave him and cut his hair.

Mr Bland looks awake because his reflex activities

still function. He can breathe on his own and coughs, blinks and responds to loud noises. His eyes roam around his room, he grinds his teeth and sometimes moans.

But the thinking and feeling part of his brain has been destroyed. It cannot relay proper messages to his limbs and gradually he has curled up into a ball, his hands have clenched up into tight fists, his arms have stiffened across his chest, his feet are deformed and his legs will not move. He has slurred from eight to five stones and is prone to constant infections.

For the past three and a half years, Mr and Mrs Bland and their immediate family have lived in a state of limbo, with little time for anything but work and visits to the hospital. If the appeal on November 30 by the Official Solicitor against Sir Stephen Brown's judgment is unsuccessful and their son is allowed to die, they may be able to start to live their own lives again.



Clear conscience: Dr Jim Howe says that court has made the right decision

Final days will be painless

By PAUL WILKINSON

TONY Bland would die within a fortnight of his treatment ceasing, his doctors said yesterday. His death would be painless and could be from a number of causes, said Dr Jim Howe, the consultant neurologist at Aldredale General Hospital, West Yorkshire, where Mr Bland was transferred a month after the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

Although feeding Mr Bland through a nasal tube would be stopped if the courts ultimately decided to allow it, he would not starve to death. Most likely would be kidney failure from dehydration, a heart attack or an infection. Twice in recent months Mr Bland has nearly died from infection but once the courts rule, his doctors

would not administer antibiotics, Dr Howe said.

He said he was relieved at the High Court decision and hoped it would be upheld on appeal. "Essentially this young man died three and a half years ago at Hillsborough when his chest was crushed, his lungs punctured and his brain starved of oxygen."

Dr Howe said he agreed with the judge, who said that he was a passive prisoner of medical technology and his spirit had left him. "I'm quite clear in my mind and my conscience that this is the correct way to deal with it. The only change I have seen in this young man over the years has been for the worse," he said.

Dr Howe said that Mr Bland would not survive without trained medical care. "It is an effort to human dignity to keep someone alive like this," he said. Mr Bland would not suffer when treatment was withdrawn.

He said that courts in America, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia had already reached decisions similar to yesterday's. "I believe it should be a medical decision not a legal one."

People, Dr Howe said, should not be shocked by this case because the decision had been taken with the benefit of public discussion and a court case. "Those who are shocked should come to see him. I don't think they would be so shocked or insist he be kept alive at all costs."

Landmark ruling sets standard for 1,000 families

The legal ruling that doctors may switch off Tony Bland's feeding system paves the way for allowing up to 1,000 similar patients to die if, as predicted, it is upheld by the Court of Appeal and House of Lords (Frances Gibb and Jeremy Laurence write).

The decision was hailed by the legal and medical professions yesterday as right and humane, and was widely welcomed as bringing the law into line with the consensus of opinion in such cases abroad. If upheld, it means doctors are free to act without any risk of breaching the law.

David Venables, the Official Solicitor, who represented Mr Bland and whose role was to ensure that all legal issues were aired, had argued that removing the feeding tube would cause death and amounted to murder. Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, declared that, despite Mr Bland's inability to consent, doctors could "lawfully discontinue" all life-sustaining treatment that would keep him in his persistent vegetative state.

The ruling is not a universal declaration that will automatically sanction similar action in other cases. Sir Stephen made clear that any other case would still need the approval of the courts because of the gravity of the decision, likely variation in facts and for the reassurance of the public. About 1,000 patients are estimated to be in a persistent vegetative state in the United Kingdom.

Allan Levy QC, a specialist in medical law, said: "This is a landmark legal ruling by any standard. It gives a degree of certainty in this very difficult and emotive area and clarifies the law where before we have been, in a sense, behind."

The decision accords with the law in most American states, some countries in Europe and with Scotland, where prosecuting authorities have already indicated that they would not prosecute doctors who withdraw feeding tubes.

Doctors welcomed the clarification the ruling gives to the duties of medical staff caring for patients in a persistent vegetative state, such as Mr Bland. In the same way that Tuesday's judgment by the General Medical Council in the case of Dr Nigel Cox set the limits of what is permissible for doctors caring for the terminally ill.

The British Medical Association said that the judgment was "an attempt to clarify the legal position by indicating that artificial feeding is a medical treatment which can be withdrawn in the same way as artificial ventilation in the right circumstances".

Although welcomed by the professions, the ruling brought angry reactions from groups such as the Society for

IMPLICATIONS

the Protection of the Unborn Child, which called it a "magic and retrograde step" that amounted to killing.

The cases of Mr Bland and Dr Cox hinge on fine distinctions between treatments. In the case of Mr Bland, the court had to decide whether artificial feeding was a form of medical treatment. There is wide acceptance that withdrawing medical treatment, such as switching off a ventilator or stopping antibiotics in the event of infection, is "allowing nature to take its course". But some argue that, by stopping food and water, doctors would be making explicit their intention that the patient should die.

But there is a crucial difference between the cases. As Anthony Lester QC, in his impartial role as "friend of the court" said in the Bland hearing, the case was not one where "a doctor, nurse or relative has taken positive steps, from compassionate motives, with the primary purpose of hastening the death of a patient suffering unbearably from a terminal illness". It was about whether, in the view of the doctors and the court, a treatment decision should be taken that would "remove the artificial support for life and allow nature to take its course so that death intervenes".

Sir Stephen said that it would not be the doctors who were bringing about death by the act of removing the tubes; rather, death would be caused by the underlying brain injury.

Proposals on how to deal with other cases in line with the ruling have already been issued by the BMA. In a discussion paper published last week, it proposes that "intensive efforts" to stimulate patients in a persistent vegetative state should be made for at least six months and that no decision should be taken to withdraw treatment for at least a year. The opinion of two other specialists should be sought and views of relatives should be taken into account, but could not be over-riding.

Professor Bryan Jennett, of the Institute of Neurological Sciences at the University of Glasgow, said that Mr Bland would die in 10 to 14 days if his feeding tube were removed but would not suffer. "The mechanism for feeling pain and suffering distress has been destroyed."

Although not a euthanasia case, the judgment is certain to reopen the debate on euthanasia and "living wills". The British Medical Journal and the Voluntary Euthanasia Society are calling for a re-examination of the law on euthanasia, possibly by a royal commission.

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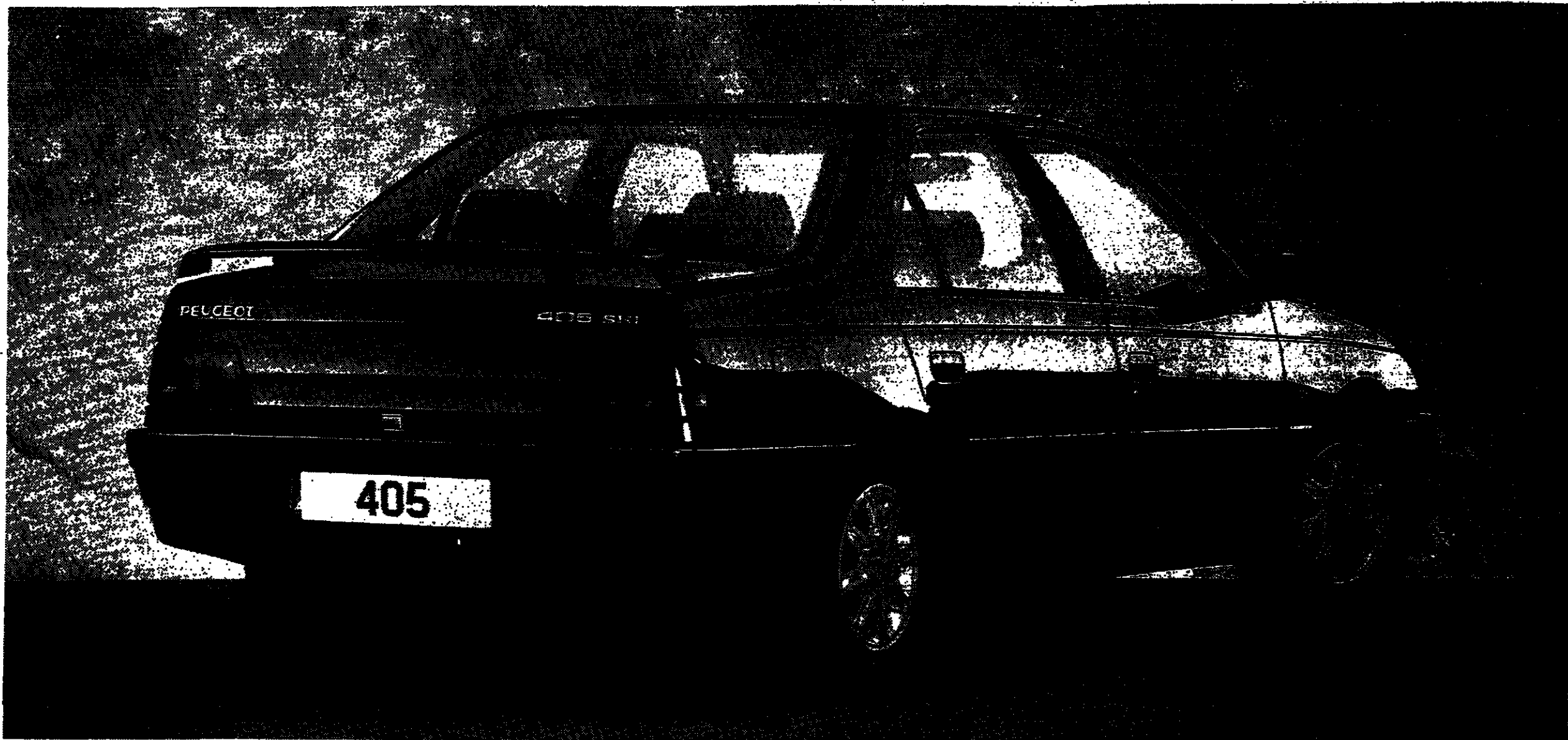
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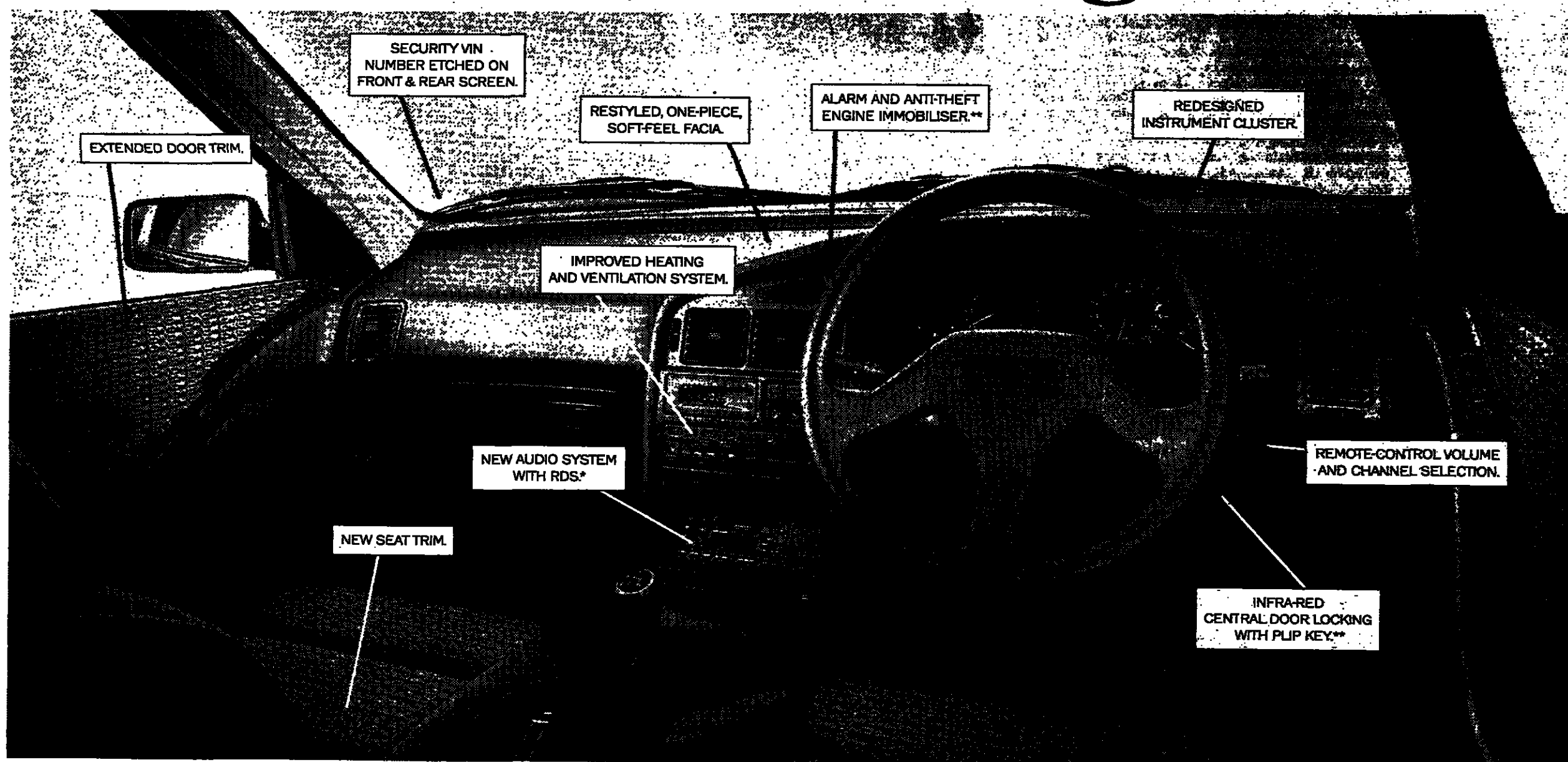
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Synod decision deepens Anglican split but encourages equality drive in other churches

Catholics offer a guarded blessing for Leonard plan

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of schism in the Church of England grew stronger last night after a warmer response than expected from the Roman Catholic Church to a proposal by the Right Rev Graham Leonard, former Bishop of London, to lead hundreds of priests and laity into the Latin church.

The rift between the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the present Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, grew deeper as it emerged that Dr Hope has also this week discussed the same option with nearly 20 bishops.

Sir Graham, who has been at the fore of opposition to women priests, suggests what is in effect a Uniat church, the designation given to Eastern churches which retain their own liturgy but submit to papal authority. The new church would follow the liturgy and canon law of the traditional Church of England but would be in full communion with the Holy See of the Catholic Church. Sir Graham hopes that the Vatican would appoint a Roman Catholic bishop as its head.

In an interview with *The Times* last night, Sir Graham said that the Church of England had become a sect and forecast that opposition to women priests would not disappear. Dr Carey repeated his plea for charity and asked that "hasty and ill-considered judgments" be avoided. Sir Graham said that his views had been well thought out.

The Catholic Church appears to favour an approach *en masse* from Anglican traditionalists. Sir Graham said that he had discussed his proposals with senior Catholics before publishing them in yesterday's *Catholic Herald*.

His impression of a positive response appeared to be confirmed yesterday. The Catholic

bishops of England and Wales said at their meeting in London that they "will be considering all aspects of this delicate and complex matter, necessarily involving consultation with the Holy See".

Father Peter Verity, spokesman for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, said: "It is not a green light but it is not a red light either. It is incredibly complex. Even if it does go further, there are other issues such as property to consider. And there has been no formal application, as far as we know."

Sir Graham suggests that another possibility would be a "personal prelature", in which a group defined by its mission rather than its territory, such as Opus Dei, comes under the special jurisdiction of the Pope. This is considered the less likely option.

The most likely scheme to be favoured by Dr Hope is the second of three he discussed, which is also the option most likely to be supported by Dr Carey. It would involve setting up an informal network within the Church of England in which bishops opposed to women priests would take over the pastoral care of clergy and parishes unable to accept the legislation. This is similar to the "alternative episcopal oversight" proposed by Cost of Conscience, which led the opposition to women priests.

The third option Dr Hope discussed was to leave the Church of England, take the financial compensation offered and join the Catholic Church as laymen, possibly seeking to become priests where possible. This is little favoured because it would mean leaving like-minded congregations behind.

Leonard interview, page 1
Leonard article, page 18
Letters, page 19



Bishop Leonard: wants to take priests over to Rome



Campaigner: Myra Poole leads the movement

RC women organise ordination campaign

By OUR RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ENCOURAGED by the victory of the movement for women priests in the Church of England, Roman Catholic women are to start their own movement for the ordination of women. Talks will take place over the next few weeks between different Catholic women's groups to help the new lobby to take shape.

The move could come as a shock to Anglican traditionalists who are deserting their mother church for Rome, only to find themselves fighting the same battle but on a different front. Large numbers of Roman Catholic laity, some priests and at least one bishop are thought to support the idea of Catholic women priests.

Roman Catholic women are traditionally even more restricted in what they can do than Anglican women. They cannot become deaconesses or be ordained deacons. They can, however, be lay preachers and some priests allow women to administer the sacrament.

In the Catholic Church, as in the Church of England, the move for women priests is

being strengthened by the growth in feminist theology. It is led by Myra Poole, former head teacher of a Catholic girls' school in south London, who is studying for a PhD in feminist theology. She works for St Joan's Alliance, a Catholic organisation that supports equal rights and opportunities for men and women in all fields.

Members of the Catholic Women's Network, which seeks the full participation of women in every aspect of church life, will debate the idea soon. The two organisations view with growing alarm the prospect of thousands of traditionalist Anglicans joining the Catholic church. Yesterday, they distanced themselves from the Vatican's cold response to the Church of England decision, which described last week's vote as a grave obstacle to the cause of unity.

In a joint statement, the women congratulated the General Synod on its "prophetic and courageous decision".

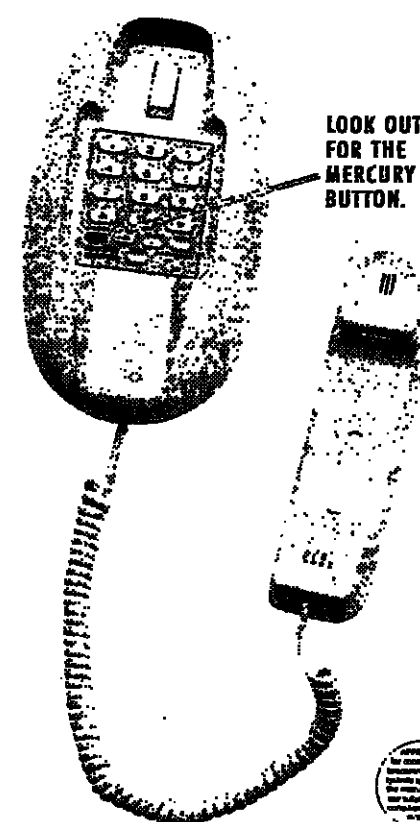
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Secretary tells jury of rape in surgery

By BILL FROST

A YOUNG woman said to have been drugged and raped by a Harley Street gynaecologist was subsequently harassed at home by the man, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The 21-year-old secretary said that Dr Thomas Courtney served her drugged wine before sexually assaulting her on an examination couch in his surgery. At one stage, he offered her accommodation above his consulting rooms if she consented to sex three times a day, she said.

Dr Courtney, 46, of Cricklewood, north London, denies raping the secretary and another woman and indecently assaulting them.

The secretary said that a chance telephone call weeks before the alleged attack had prompted her to see the doctor. She had wanted to ring her former employer but misdialled and found herself talking to Dr Courtney, whom she had never spoken to before. "He started chatting. He suggested we should meet and get together. We had only been talking a matter of minutes. I laughed it off."

Later, she decided to ring him. "I told him I was trying to find work and he suggested we meet that evening at his surgery." When she arrived, he gave her a glass of wine. "It tasted very strange," she said. "Suddenly, I was by the fire. I was standing there and I had no clothes on. I remember looking up and he was completely naked as well."

"I said to him, 'Why are you doing this to me?' He said this was what I wanted, wasn't it? The next thing I was on the examination couch." Asked by Richard Horwell, for the prosecution, whether she had wanted to have sexual intercourse with Dr Courtney, she replied: "No."

The trial continues today.

Prince is all smiles without the cheese

By ALAN HAMILTON

FRESH from the ordeal of listening to Jacques Delors debate subsidiarity in the European parliament on Wednesday, the Prince of Wales met the president of the European Commission face to face over lunch in Brussels yesterday and declared that he had been "very impressed" by his speech.

Admiration, however, is not necessarily the same as understanding. Antony thought Cleopatra more than a bit of all right, but he never fully got the hang of her wily Egyptian mind. The prince, a consummate diplomat, did not labour his asides of the previous day when he confessed to finding M Delors' Eurojargon impenetrable. Yesterday it was the turn of M Delors to be unwittingly undiplomatic: he forgot the cheese.

As is well known, the prince's reservations about a united Europe centre not on fear that when he ascends the throne he will be no more than a minor provincial princeling, but on cheese. Earlier this year, in France, he made a spirited defence of that country's more recherché dairy products, of the bacteria-laden kind that he feared might be killed off by EC standardisation.

But yesterday, there was no cheese. There was *raviole de langoustines* with asparagus tips, there was *blanquette de turbot* with *legumes a la parisienne*, followed by *delicat aux marrons avec creme d'Armagnac* and Moka coffee. And that was it.

Commission staff denied they had forced a bacterially correct lunch upon the prince, and said they had simply overlooked *les fromages*. Rinske Grimsdoff, head of VIP catering, said: "I was worried about him being a vegetarian. I knew he ate fish, but that was all I knew."

Addressing Belgian EC officials who will soon travel to Scotland for the Edinburgh summit, the prince attempted to define a haggis, which he assured them had three legs and could only go round one side of a hill. Careful, sir: they may ban the beast.

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صكنا امت الأصل

Irish general election campaign

Embattled Reynolds claims change in poll fortunes

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish prime minister, whose popularity has plummeted since the general election campaign opened two weeks ago, claimed yesterday that the tide was turning in his favour.

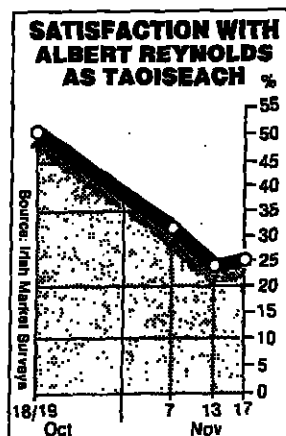
Albert Reynolds pointed to the latest opinion poll as evidence that his party, Fianna Fáil, which had also heavily lost support, has turned the corner. He said that he was confident it would pick up more support before polling next Wednesday.

The poll by Irish Marketing Surveys, published in the *Irish Independent*, shows Fianna Fáil at 42 per cent, 1 point up on last week, when it had fallen 6 points from its rating at the beginning of the three-week campaign.

Fine Gael remains unchanged at 24 per cent, as does Labour at 19 per cent, which was a big jump for that party from 15 per cent at the beginning of the campaign. The small Progressive Demo-

crats, who precipitated the election by pulling out of the coalition with Fianna Fáil after Mr Reynolds accused their leader, Des O'Malley, of lying on oath to a beef tribunal, are on 5 per cent. That is 1 point down on the weekend and 2 down on its position at the start of the campaign.

The ratings of the party



leaders underlines the collapse of Mr Reynolds' popularity since the campaign began. His satisfaction rating is 25 per cent, 1 point up on the weekend but a long way down from the 60 per cent he enjoyed in September.

John Bruton, the Fine Gael leader, is at 31 per cent, Mr O'Malley at 34 per cent and Dick Spring, the Labour leader, stands high above them all at 67 per cent.

It is clear that Ireland is heading for another coalition government and almost certainly an unstable one. Barring a dramatic turnaround, Mr Reynolds has no chance of achieving an overall majority for Fianna Fáil, an outcome on which he staked his leadership.

He is widely blamed for causing an unnecessary election, his use of undignified language in the row with the Democrats has not endeared him to many of his supporters and, in recent days, he has

started to wobble badly in interviews, apparently exhausted and poorly briefed. This week he inadvertently described Mr Bruton as John Bruton and referred to Charlie McCreery, his minister for social welfare, as attempting to "dehumanise" the benefits system.

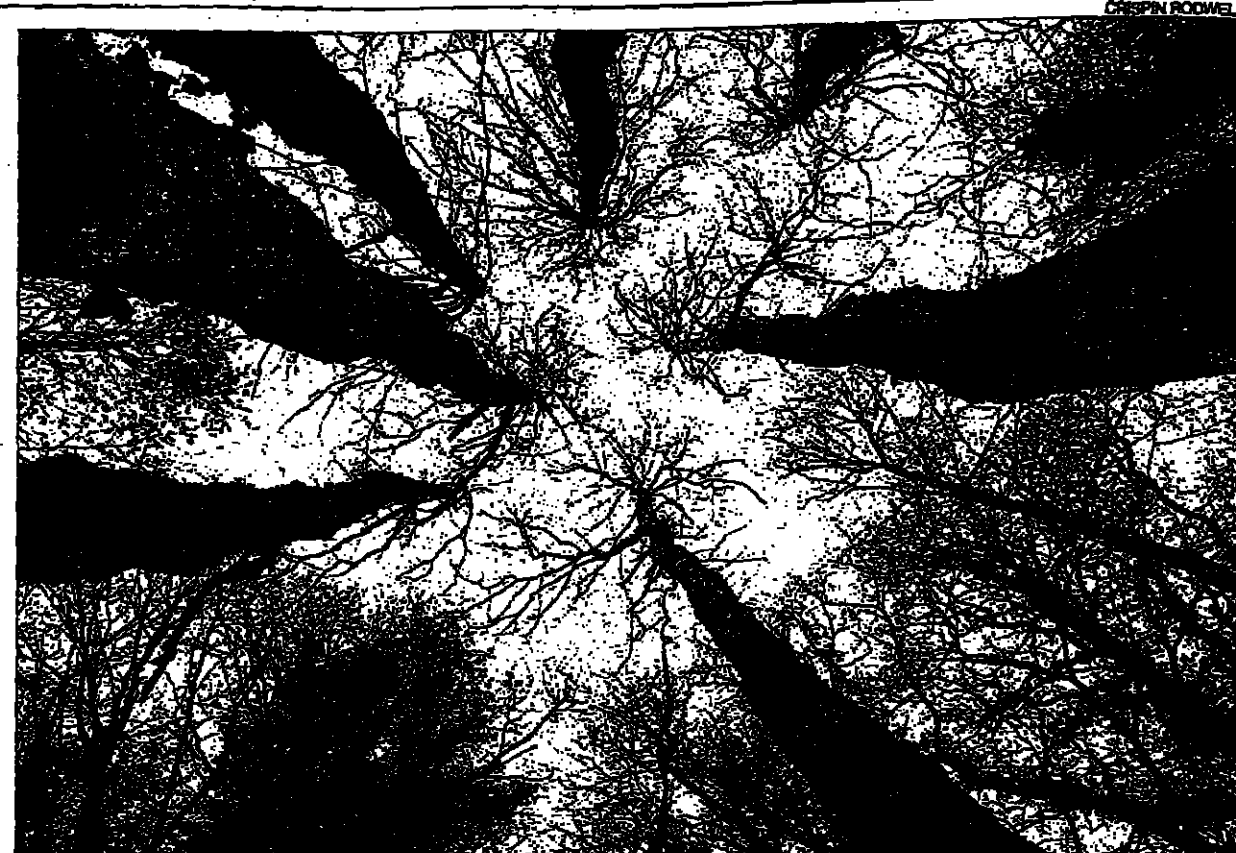
Mr Bruton and Fine Gael have failed to capitalise on the coalition's collapse, leaving the pivotal role to Labour, which stands to gain at least four seats, up from 16, and whose leader Mr Spring is enjoying unparalleled popularity, reflecting his incisive performance as the *de facto* opposition leader in the last Dáil.

In a hung parliament, the most likely outcomes are either a coalition between Labour and Fianna Fáil, for which Labour would demand a high price of at least four cabinet seats and possibly the replacement of Mr Reynolds, or a "rainbow coalition" of Labour, Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats.

Mr Spring has possibly damaged his prospects and lent credence to Mr Reynolds' attempts to scare the electorate about the instability of what he has called a "lethal cocktail" coalition, by suggesting that the post of prime minister could be rotated.

Even so, the rainbow coalition is still the most popular choice among the voters, with 40 per cent preferring it in yesterday's poll, compared with 32 per cent who said they wanted a Fianna Fáil majority administration.

It is clear that while all three parties have ambitious programmes to target unemployment, the most important issue in the election, there will be difficult negotiations ahead to harmonise strategy on this and on tax reform, reform of the social welfare system and other major policy areas.



Under the axe: the oaks that once made Dublin's finest buildings are now wanted by the furniture trade

Forest guardians await chainsaw's call

Through the windows of the old wooden caravan parked by the hedge on the side of the Tinahely to Shillelagh road, the majestic beauty of Tomnafinnog Wood looms large on the horizon. Hundreds of 250-year-old oaks look bronze under a wintry sky.

Inside the 1950s mobile home, Sue Wardell talks of the "tranquillity and magnificence" of the trees that are within weeks of being felled. Beside her, Paddy O'Toole, a farmer who has led the fight to save the wood, says that in the end the ten-year battle may come down to a matter of physical force.

"We have someone watching all the time," he said, referring to the rota of volunteers watching and listening from the caravan for the first sign of chainsaws. "When it happens, we are going to muster our supporters and there will be confrontation, serious confrontation."

Tomnafinnog Wood — the wood of the hooded crow — is regarded as the last

great stand of oaks in Ireland. The trees, planted in the early 18th century, nestle for half a mile along the valley of the river Derry in the southwest corner of Wicklow. Oaks grown at Tomnafinnog, on land formerly owned by the Fitzwilliam family near Coolattin, have been used for centuries in the construction of some of the finest buildings in Europe, including Westminster Hall, the Stadthaus in Amsterdam and a number of important buildings in Dublin.

The present owner, Michael Shanley, an Irish builder based in Luton, wants to fell acres of trees to cash in on their value to furniture-makers. Over the past ten years, his company Bridgefarm has already felled large areas of adjoining oak forest and he has permission from the energy department and the local council to begin on Tomnafinnog on December 4, when 323 trees are due to be felled.

Having exhausted all the

avenues of conservation and planning law, the campaign to save the wood, led by the National Trust for Ireland, the Irish Tree Society and the Irish Georgian Society, is now negotiating with Mr Shanley to buy the wood. The aim is to preserve the oaks, which could live for a further 600 years, and to manage them so that the stock replenishes itself. The area would be open to the public as part of the national heritage.

So far, the campaign has raised only about £15,000, but the organisers are hopeful that they will be able to come up with the £200,000 to £300,000 required if they can reach a deal with Mr Shanley. But it is not clear whether he is interested in selling. In a recent interview, an associate suggested that the felling would begin in a matter of days. Pat Tatten, a director of Bridgefarm, said that the company had planted 750,000 trees over the past ten years, including 200,000

oaks on the old Fitzwilliam estate. "We have been granted a felling licence," he told a Dublin newspaper. "The conservationists have to ask themselves would we have been granted [it] if the authorities were not happy with our efforts to replant the whole wood."

Mr O'Toole dismissed arguments which, he says, support asset-stripping a national treasure. There could be no defence for what amounted to clear-felling the oaks and replanting with trees that would take 200 years to reach the height of the present stock and which were being poorly maintained.

"For generations, these oaks were managed and harvested, giving employment to maybe 50 people," he said. "That is entirely different to what these people are doing. No one in their right mind would object to the proper management and harvesting of the wood."

EDWARD GORMAN

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Reserve	1.75	0.05	23.10
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Overdraft £5,000-£9,999	1.25	0.05	16.00
Overdraft £10,000+	1.15	0.10	14.70
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	Interest rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	A.P.R. %
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Equity Release Loan:			
First Charge	8.55	0.70	8.80
Second Charge	10.55	0.70	12.10
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Humans rush headlong into war with the world

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

HUMANITY is doomed unless it changes its ways fast, says a warning in an appeal signed by more than half the scientific world's Nobel Laureates.

"No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished," the scientists say in a statement issued by the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists. The declaration is signed by 1,575 scientists, including 99 Nobel winners.

The four-page *World Scientists' Warning to Humanity* was co-

ordinated by Dr Henry Kendall, an American physicist who won the Nobel Prize two years ago and now chairs the "union", a group originally concerned with the dangers of nuclear war but now operating on a broader front. He described the consensus as "truly unprecedented". Among the signatories was Lord Zuckerman, a former chief scientific adviser to Downing Street.

The warning begins by declaring that human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Climate depletion, waste of water, poisoning of the oceans, damage to farmland, deforestation, loss of plant and animal species and population growth are the greatest dangers, it asserts. "The Earth

is finite. Its ability to absorb wastes and destructive effluent is finite. Its ability to provide food and energy is finite. Its ability to provide for growing numbers of people is finite.

"And we are fast approaching many of the Earth's limits. Current economic practices... cannot be continued without the risk that global systems will be damaged beyond repair.

Pressures from unrestrained population growth put demands on the natural world that can overwhelm any efforts to achieve a sustainable future," the statement says. Industrial countries are the worst polluters and should help the Third World where environmental damage is a grave threat. The group predicts conflicts over scarce resources,

and "mass migrations with incalculable consequences".

The scientists called for action in several areas to arrest the rush towards disaster: controlling activities that damage the environment, such as use of oil and coal, deforestation and poor farm practices; more efficient use of energy and water; stabilising the population; reducing and eventually eliminating poverty; equality for women; and reducing the threat of war.

Dr Kendall said: "We simply cannot continue on the course we're on. Nature won't allow it. We must all pay careful attention to the words of this distinguished group of scientists and act before it is too late."

Biography of Trollope wins prize

By DANIEL JOHNSON
LITERARY EDITOR

VICTORIA Glendinning, a regular book reviewer for *The Times*, yesterday won a £2,000 Whitbread Award for her life of Trollope. Her prize for the best biographical work comes in the same year that she chaired the Booker Prize judges.

She told an invited audience at the award ceremony in London: "I am pleased for Trollope, because more people will read him; and I am pleased for myself, because I did work very hard."

One of the judges, Baroness James, said that *Trollope*, published by Hutchinson, had an excellent chance of being voted Book of the Year on January 26.

As the first important Trollope biography by a woman, it explores his treatment of the other sex more fully than ever before. "As readable... as a good novel," Caroline Moore wrote in *The Times*.

The £20,500 Whitbread Book of the Year is one of the biggest events in the publishers' calendar and is chosen from among the five winners of the Whitbread Awards.

Alasdair Gray's *Poor Things* (Bloomsbury) won the novel award and Jeff Torrington's *Swing Hammer Swing!* (Secker & Warburg) won the first novel award.

Gillian Cross won the children's novel with *The Great Elephant Chase* (OUP), for which she also won the £8,000 Smarties Prize for children's fiction, which was announced on Wednesday. The poetry award was won by Tony Harrison's *The Gaze of the Gorgon* (Bloodaxe).

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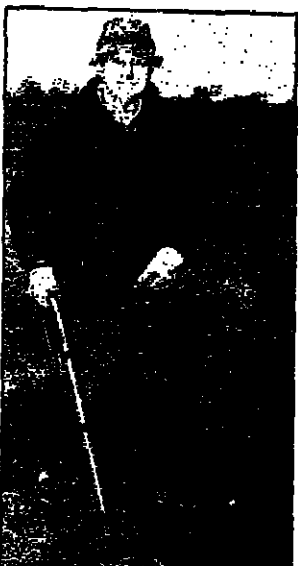
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Experts reveal full glory of treasure found in field

By Nick Nuttall
and Norman Hammond

GOLD and silver objects found in a Suffolk field by a retired gardener with his metal detector have been described by archaeologists as one of the most spectacular Roman treasure hoards ever uncovered.

Full details emerged yesterday of what Eric Lawes, 69, found in the newly ploughed



Searching: Eric Lawes with his metal detector

A tenant farmer and a pensioner with a metal detector are likely to collect millions of pounds after finding Roman coins and jewellery lost 1,600 years ago

field at Horne while he was searching for tools lost by his friend Peter Whitting. A tenant farmer. Inside the remains of a rotten box, archaeologists discovered two silver figurines of a human bust and a tigeress, as well as two small silver containers.

Several handfuls of silver spoons and decorated small strainers, some with Latin words and the Christian Chi Rho symbol inscribed on them, were also discovered.

In the centre and towards the top of the box were pieces of gold jewellery including necklaces, bracelets and two rings. Alongside these a silver bowl was found. Thousands of silver and gold coins, which may have once been in a cloth bag, were littered among the other items.

Mr Lawes's metal detector picked up a single silver coin which led to the discovery of other items just below the surface and a call to Suffolk County Council. Judith Plouviez, the council's Roman specialist who supervised the

subsequent dig, said the find was "priceless in terms of the knowledge it will give us". It was the most spectacular find in Suffolk since the Mildenhall treasure, a large ornamental silver dinner service unearthed during the second world war.

Archaeologists praised Mr Lawes, a pensioner from Diss, and Mr Whitting, 41, for reporting their discovery so promptly. There were suggestions yesterday that the collection could be worth as much as £10 million.

But that figure was dismissed by the British Museum as "pure speculation". A spokesman said: "It is not as big as Mildenhall in terms of size, but it is very unusual. Its importance lies in the fact that it may be Byzantine in design and such styles have never been seen before in Roman Britain."

A full analysis is to be undertaken by museum experts after the items have been thoroughly cleaned, photographed and catalogued by

Dr Timothy Potter and Dr Catherine Johns, specialists in Roman Britain. They were involved in the assessment of the Thetford Treasure, the last great Roman discovery made in East Anglia, 20 miles from Mr Whitting's farm.

That too was a buried hoard of gold and silver, believed to have been the ritual plate of a temple. Found with a metal detector, it was concealed by the finder and only a third of the potential reward was eventually paid.

Because they contacted the authorities immediately, Mr Whitting and Mr Lawes will receive the full value of their discovery if it is declared treasure trove.

Archaeologists said yesterday that the items appear to have been hidden by a wealthy family during civil unrest at the end of the Roman rule in Britain. However, it could instead be a temple's accumulated treasure.

Mr Whitting said: "Up to now I've only ploughed about 1 1/2 in down, but this year I went a bit deeper. The old plough must have scraped over the top scores of times but this time it just nicked it and two coins came up."

Mr Lawes said: "First I found one silver coin, then a second and then I went down and struck gold. I decided to stop when I filled two carrier bags and put them in the car. There must have been a hundredweight of coins and treasure still in the ground."

"It was impossible to describe my feelings when I started finding handfuls of coins, necklaces and spoons. It's everybody's dream, isn't it, to find buried treasure?"

Mr Lawes drove back to the farmhouse at lunchtime and said he had found something. Mr Whitting said: "I was out, but he told the wife he had found a few coins and some battered-up spoons."

"He came back after lunch and I had a look. When I saw the stuff in the boot of the car it was as though it had all just been made yesterday. It was so clean. There was a necklace there, just sparkling. When I realised what it was, my hands started shaking."

Roy Clark, an assistant county land agent, said yesterday: "You could see gold glistening in the earth and the deeper they dug, the more they uncovered."

New laws may curb detectors

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

WHILE Eric Lawes, the retired gardener and metal detecting enthusiast, contemplates his hoped-for windfall, archaeologists have drafted a parliamentary bill that would significantly restrict one of Britain's fastest growing hobbies.

The Surrey Archaeological Society in Guildford, angry over several incidents where ancient sites have been turned into moonscapes and policemen attacked by people armed with metal detectors, has drafted the bill which would make a new law of trespass with a metal detector similar to trespass with a shotgun.

David Graham, of the society, said the bill, which has secured the support of a peer, an MP and the Home Office, is expected to be introduced

next year. It has the backing of various bodies including the Country Landowners' Association, English Heritage, the Council of British Archaeology, the Museums Association, and the police, he said.

"The police very much want some powers of arrest which they do not have at the moment," said Mr Graham.

The bill would also clamp down on an estimated 180,000 metal detector enthusiasts in other ways by modernising the treasure trove laws. These require a finder to report their discovery to the local authorities only if the items are gold and silver and the original owner meant to come back and recover it.

"These are among the oldest laws in Britain and they date from the Saxon and medieval periods. They are designed to

acquire gold and silver for the Crown to melt down for coinage... which is no way to deal with antiquities now," he said.

He said many ancient items were often made from materials other than gold and silver and that trying to establish the motives of a person 2,000 years ago was difficult. New categories of treasure trove would extend the laws to other metals and items such as weapons and shields.

Responsible metal detector enthusiasts view these proposals with dismay. Gerald Costello, former general secretary of the National Council for Metal Detecting, admitted that there was an unacceptable fringe element in the hobby but said most enthusiasts were keen to work with archaeologists.



Golden strings: the impresario Harold Fielding with the 1742 Lorenzo Guadagnini violin he sold at Phillips in Bond Street yesterday. Bought by his mother in 1933, it fetched £198,000 against an estimate of £120,000

Millions of savers miss tax refund

By Paul Wilkinson

SIX million people in Britain have not claimed tax refunds to which they are entitled, according to the Inland Revenue, which is closing all but five of 24 offices set up across the country to handle an avalanche of claims that never arrived.

Refunds totalling £400 million became due two years ago after the law relating to tax paid on interest earned by bank and building

society accounts changed. Only 25 per cent of the eight million eligible account holders — non-taxpayers such as the elderly, the unemployed and children — have come forward.

A revenue spokesman said the response had been disappointing: "Some people think it's like taking money from charity. It must be more difficult than we thought for people to understand that we are giving money out. People are obviously still frightened of the Inland Revenue."

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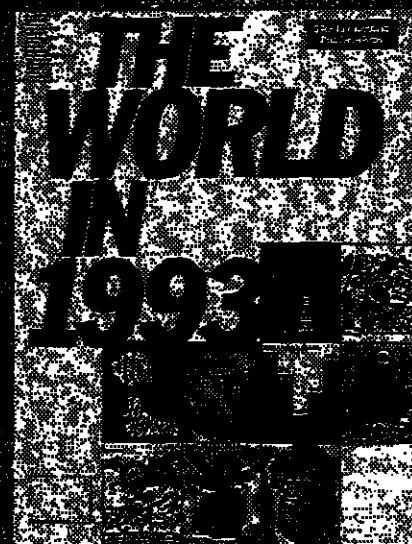
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Plutonium plant at Sellafield may be shut before it opens

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE future of a £1.85 billion nuclear reprocessing plant may be called into question before it opens.

Britain's third biggest building project, the Thorp plant at Sellafield, Cumbria, is at the centre of a growing argument over economic and environmental factors.

The argument focuses on the plutonium which Thorp, owned by British Nuclear Fuels, would recover by reprocessing spent fuel from nuclear power stations. Critics fear that increasing the amount of plutonium could add to the likelihood of nuclear weapons proliferation, although BNFL disputes that reprocessed plutonium is good enough for weapons.

The future of the plant, which is waiting for a licence to operate, may be challenged by a report from the government's scientific consultants, the Independent Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee. The report studies the problems that will arise from managing Britain's radioactive waste over the next 20 years. It was commissioned by Michael Heseltine when he was environment secretary a year ago and will be delivered to his successor, Michael Howard, in April.

The report is likely to reopen

at the highest official level the debate on the justification for having Thorp at all, a question which BNFL believes was settled by the 1977 Windscale public enquiry, which gave the plant the go-ahead.

Although cancelling such an expensive, high-technology project has so far been politically unthinkable — the analogy of cancelling Concorde is frequently drawn — the government has in recent weeks begun to review its options. The report will be viewed against that background.

A Whitehall observer said last night: "Everyone in the government seems to have forgotten that this report is coming, but it is ticking under Thorp like a time bomb." It will deal with, among other things, the waste management side of reprocessing spent atomic fuel. Although BNFL cites better waste management as one of the advantages of reprocessing, the last time the advisory committee referred to the subject, in its eleventh annual report two years ago, it said: "There are no compelling waste management reasons to reprocess oxide fuel early, later or at all."

The report is likely to reach Mr Howard's desk as he is deciding whether to give Thorp its pollution permit for

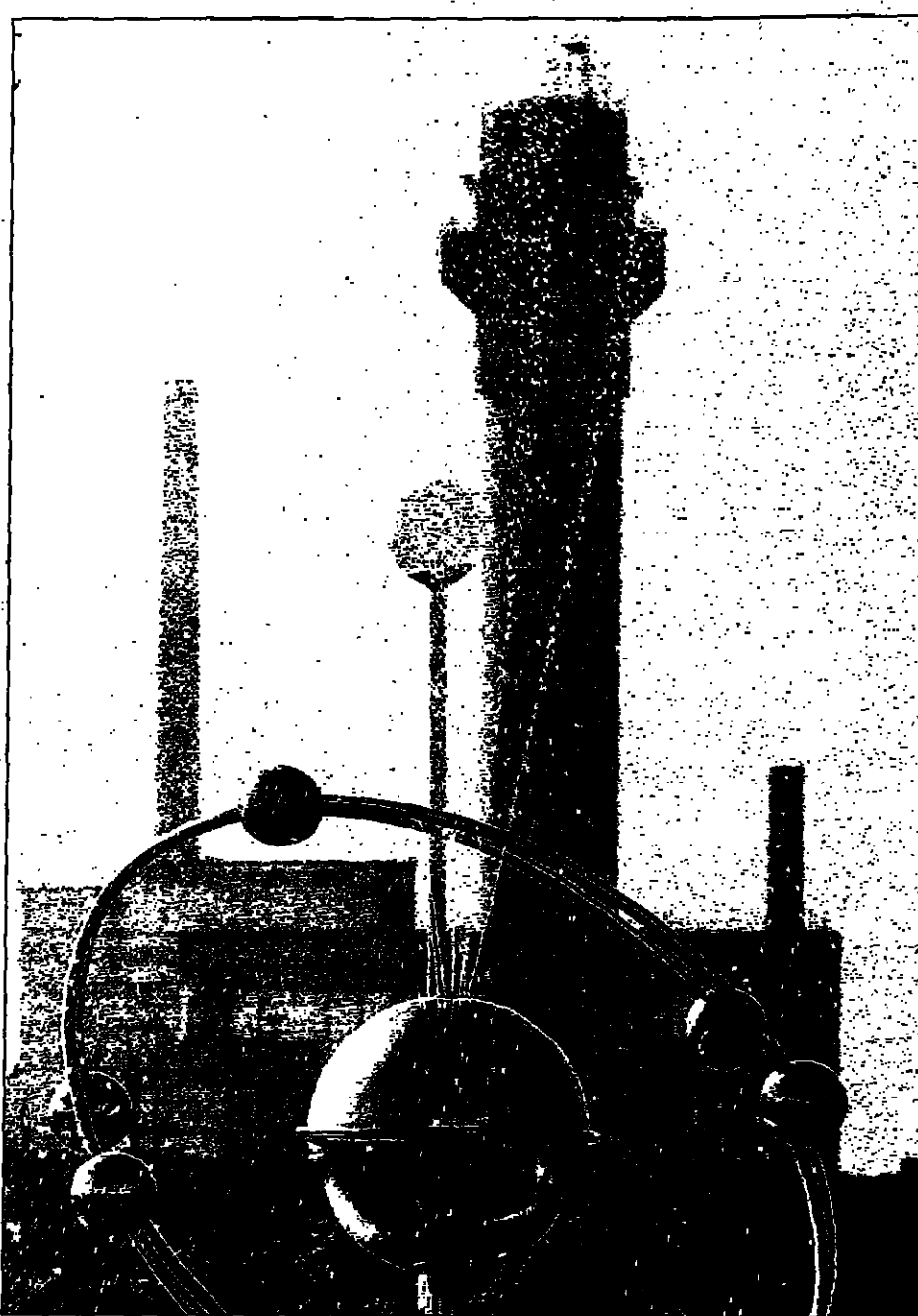
radioactive discharges into the atmosphere and the Irish Sea. The draft permit has just been released for an eight-week public consultation, but those discussions focus narrowly on discharge levels, taking it for granted that Thorp will go ahead. Consideration by Mr Howard of the advisory committee's report would broaden the debate from the technical terms of Thorp's pollution licence to the plant's basic justification.

According to BNFL's original timetable, the plant would have started work on January 1, 1993. This would have made the report, to be published in April, irrelevant as far as Thorp was concerned. However, the timetable has slipped, and BNFL's chairman, John Guinness, said last week that the plant was unlikely to start before March 31.

Whitehall sources said that in the circumstances it was unlikely that Mr Howard would give the plant the go-ahead until the advisory committee's report had been considered.

Its chairman, Professor John Knill, who is also chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council, was not available for comment.

Letters, page 19



Fuelling controversy: the debate over reprocessing at Sellafield has reopened

Three battles nuclear industry dare not lose

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S nuclear industry is battling for survival and yesterday's announcement that research into fast breeder reactors is to be abandoned has great symbolic significance.

Fast breeder reactors were to have been the powerhouses of the future and a spokesman for the British Nuclear Forum described the decision as "very sad news". He said: "Britain is withdrawing from investment in its long-term future."

The industry can survive the setback, but not if it represents a wholesale loss of support within the government for nuclear power. Three more critical decisions are coming up, for which the industry will need friends in high places.

First, Nuclear Electric must ensure that the old Magnox stations are not shut down to propitiate public opinion over the pit closure programme. Critics have claimed that if all eight Magnox plants were closed, their output could be generated by coal and nine pits might be saved.

The Treasury is likely to prove the industry's ally in that skirmish. When the Magnox stations are closed, substantial sums will have to be found to decommission them. In addition, because they would be nowhere to put all the spent fuel if they all closed at once, the stations would have to be kept going on a care and maintenance basis — and might just as well continue to generate electricity.

The Treasury is also likely to

favour continuing the key on electricity bills, which supports nuclear power and renewable sources, even though it is unpopular with the two big generators, National Power and PowerGen. Without it, decommissioning costs would have to be found from taxes at a time when public finances are fully stretched.

The second argument is over the opening of the Thorp reprocessing plant. Originally, it was assumed that plutonium produced by Thorp would provide the fast breeders with fuel but now its case rests more narrowly on its economic prospects, the possibility of using plutonium in ordinary reactors, and on the legal obligations to satisfy foreign customers whose money helped to build the plant.

On the horizon is the biggest battle of all, the promised government review of the industry in 1994. By that time, Nuclear Electric hopes to have the pressurised water reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk operational and be able to demonstrate the efficient production of low-cost electricity. On that rests its chances of winning approval for future PWRs, which it says would be even better value.

If the industry comes out the loser in 1994, nuclear power will finally have run out of road. Ahead will lie only the dismal and long-term business of an orderly rundown, with only one modern power station, Sizewell B, to show for 40 years of effort and expense.

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Portillo urges firms to follow government lead on pay restraint

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JONATHAN PYNN

THE Treasury maintained its buoyant mood yesterday in looking beyond the recession and planning to restore Britain's competitiveness. The upbeat spirit shown by the Chancellor on Wednesday was reinforced yesterday by Michael Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury, as he reiterated plans to boost the economy.

Economic fundamentals were now promising, he said, emphasising that recent cuts in the rates of interest and exchange rates had already made British industry more competitive.

Opening the second day of debate on last week's Autumn Statement, Mr Portillo warned the private sector not to repeat past mistakes by allowing high pay to ruin its competitiveness. As Mr Portillo looked beyond the recession, however, he was sharply criticised by Harriet Harman, the shadow chief Treasury secretary, for standing by "while the menace of unemployment and recession stalked in and engulfed every region of this country".

Mr Portillo repeated his message to industry that he expected it to follow the government's lead in reining back pay increases below the rate of inflation. He insisted, in the

The cabinet continues its upbeat assessment of the Autumn Statement. Labour sees less cause for optimism

wake of the 1.5 per cent ceiling placed on public sector pay, that the government would not dictate settlements to the private sector through an incomes policy. "It is up to individual employers to decide what they can afford to pay. But what everyone knows is that the lower the growth in wage costs in general, the better will be the UK's competitive position."

He warned the private sector that labour costs were growing faster than in some competitor countries, and added that "more progress may be required if the UK is to succeed in the world of the 1990s". Mr Portillo, who has Treasury responsibility for public spending, urged MPs to help to set an example on wage rises by agreeing to the pay freeze recommended by the government. "We cannot ... call for the protection of capital spending and the preservation of benefits, unless we are also willing ourselves to share in the sacrifice."

A prime objective for the government had to be to

reduce its spending and borrowing. Spending "could eventually smother the private sector", and he said that a careful eye needed to be kept on the proportion of national income absorbed by public spending.

Although accepting the need for higher public spending during recession, Mr Portillo said: "As growth returns, we need to be sure that its fruits are not simply gobbled up by an uncontrolled expansion of the state." The recession must not be an excuse for public spending to "let rip" or for temporary increases in spending to become permanent.

In reply, Harriet Harman, giving her first important Commons speech as shadow chief secretary, attacked Mr Portillo for the "extraordinary" absence of any reference in his speech to unemployment on a day that saw the announcement of a further 10,000 job losses.

She said the package of measures announced in the Autumn Statement would not reverse the rising tide of joblessness. "It is a mix of measures the government does not believe in, and even on its own predictions will not add up to an end to the recession," she said. She mocked government claims that global economic downturn was responsible for the UK recession. "Our recession started earliest and has lasted longest," she said.

The government had failed to provide a programme for recovery in any of the main areas of the economy. For example, instead of an industrial policy the government was offering £400 off the price of a new car. "The government has begun to talk about growth but has no real expectation of growth: it has started to talk about investment but has no strategy for investment," she said.

She rejected the argument that a return of consumer confidence would alone bring about recovery. The government would not end the recession by waiting for people to go out shopping, as they were still burdened by personal debt. She was particularly critical of the Autumn Statement announcement that local authorities would be able to spend future capital receipts on new housing up to December next year.

She also attacked the 1.5 per cent public sector pay limit. It was not public sector pay that caused the recession, and cutting the real wages of public sector staff would not bring the recession to an end. She contrasted the policy with the decision to lift stamp duty on share transactions at a cost to the taxpayer of £1.5 billion over the next two years. "People will not think it fair to take money out of the pay packets of nurses but put it back into the wallets of those dealing in shares," she said.



Time for action: two workers from Devonport Dockyard join a lobby of Parliament yesterday. The government is expected to decide before Christmas whether Devonport, in Plymouth, or Rosyth in Scotland will win future nuclear submarine refitting work.

Howard seeks smooth switch to council tax

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are hoping that a promise that even the wealthiest households will not have to pay more than £5 a week extra under the council tax will dispel Tory backbench anxieties over next April's upheaval in local taxation.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is expected to give the pledge next Thursday when he outlines the transitional relief scheme designed to smooth the changeover from poll tax to council tax.

Mr Howard has won an extra £1.2 billion from the Treasury in grants for local government, about £350 million of which has been earmarked for the scheme limiting losses for those hit by the return to a tax based on property values. This is much less than the £2 billion he wanted for the relief scheme, and some Tory MPs are likely to be disappointed that their constituents are not being more generously cushioned.

They have been dismayed by reports that some 70 per cent of households in the Tory heartlands of London and the South-East will be losers from the abolition of the poll tax.

In a sign of the political sensitivity of the announcement, Mr Howard and John Redwood, the local government minister, have embarked on a "charm offensive" among Tory MPs. Attempts are being made to reassure them that the council tax will

not mean a repeat of the poll tax fiasco. Cabinet ministers admitted yesterday that the changeover would be one of the main political hurdles of the coming months, but they expect the uproar to subside by 1994.

Mr Howard will announce a sliding scale of relief linked to eight bands of property values. Potential losses will be lowest for people living in the cheapest Band A properties and highest for those at the top of the spectrum. He will also announce a further tightening of capping powers.

Two-thirds of properties in England fall into bands A-C covering houses worth up to £58,000. The most their owners will be asked to pay in extra bills will be £2 a week, with households in Bands A and B subject to a lower limit. Many people in such homes, especially in the North and the Midlands, will gain from the scrapping of the poll tax. Maximum permitted increases for Bands D-H will range from £2 to £5 a week.

Kaufman backs press reform

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of MPs is considering ways of protecting private citizens from press intrusion after citing a catalogue of cases where public figures and more humble individuals had suffered. The investigation into privacy and media intrusion by the Commons national heritage committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman, is running parallel to the review by Sir David Calcutt.

After questioning top lawyers yesterday, Mr Kaufman supported the extension of legal aid for libel and called for better safeguards for private citizens.

At the hearing the cross-party committee disputed where to draw the line between public figures and private individuals.

Some MPs plainly disagreed with Desmond Browne QC, a member of the Bar Council's privacy working party, when he said press behaviour had improved since newspapers were told by Sir David two years ago to put their house in order. The figures for outstanding High Court actions for libel, malicious falsehoods and breaches

of confidentiality for one newspaper had fallen since the original Calcutt report from 25 to four.

Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, talked of a recent case "of a man who didn't have his glasses on in the bathroom and picked up the superglue instead of the anal cream ... and glued his buttocks together. This man was made a laughing stock," he said.

Mr Browne replied that if

the man circulated the story, even though he had not foreseen it being passed on to so many people, then the newspaper could be justified in publishing it.

Mr Browne said that people failed to appreciate the width of the existing laws on confidentiality. He opposed the idea of a tribunal with stringent powers to grant injunctions and award compensation because it could overlap with the courts.

PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be Monday: Debate on Labour motion on Iraq exports. Tuesday: Debate on European Community budget. Wednesday: Debate on MPs' pay. Proceedings on the car tax (abolition) bill. Thursday: Debate on the management of public services. Friday: Debate on private

member's motion on relations with Libya and Iraq.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be Monday: Foreign compensation (amendment) bill, committee. Agriculture bill, second reading. Tuesday: Sea fish (conservation) bill, report. Wednesday: Debate on unemployment. Thursday: Hereditary peerages bill, second reading.

Blair gives Labour recipe for change

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour party must change itself if it is to make the case for change in the country, according to Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, who was elected to the party's national executive two months ago.

He pressed the case for far-reaching changes in the party's policies and organisation in a recent speech to the Young Fabians. His remarks underline the determination of leading reformers in the party to press ahead with internal changes and not to rest on Labour's big lead in the polls.

Mr Blair argued that, for the Opposition to win, not only must the incumbent party fail but Labour, the challenger, must articulate and lead the case for change in a convincing way. The victory of Bill Clinton in the American presidential election, he said, proved that this could be done, not that it was inevitable.

Difficulties had arisen with market theology and a different approach was now needed based on community action to further public good. This should incorporate the market economy, while avoiding a centralised state and the vested interests of the public sector.

Rather than putting forward a mass of policy detail, Labour should identify symbolic signposts to its philos-



Blair: pressing for reforms in party

ophy. These should include a commitment to internationalism, notably in the EC and to prevent nuclear proliferation; partnership of government and industry; an emphasis on enhancing the value of labour to exploit the possibilities of capital via education and training; escaping poverty by not treating welfare dependency as inevitable; providing the maximum possible public services, not the minimum permissible; and a new relationship between individuals and the state via constitutional changes. Updating the party's approach should be matched by changes in organisation by expanding membership and basing decisions on one member, one vote.



EC power struggle

John Major's assertion that the Maastricht treaty will take power away from the European Commission was disputed yesterday in a report by the cross-party foreign affairs committee. It concluded that legal challenges against the EC under the subsidiarity rule were "unlikely to succeed". As the prime minister is seeking a clearer agreement on subsidiarity at next month's EC summit in Edinburgh, the committee said that, without some new institutional mechanism for enforcing the rule, it might not be effective. In its interim report entitled *Europe after Maastricht*, the MPs said they received conflicting evidence on whether the treaty reduced the Commission's powers to interfere in some policy areas and they believed the issue was "open to further debate".

Brave police

The unarmed police and security guards who confronted terrorists in London recently were praised during Home Office questions by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary.

In Parliament

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on warfare and the right to work.

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مكتبة الأصيل

French denounce UK as hopes rise for oilseed deal

■ Paris, sensing an imminent Gatt agreement, is accusing Britain of selling out the French to save the record of its EC presidency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TOP American and European Community negotiators yesterday entered a second day of talks in Washington, with both sides increasingly hopeful of reaching an agreement on EC oilseed subsidies before day's end in the hope of averting a serious transatlantic trade war.

But as agreement came closer, the French government denounced Britain and displayed its increasing desperation over a dilemma which President Mitterrand says is one of the toughest he has faced in four decades of public office.

Adding to the pressure, both opposition parties and the government's own Socialists, called on M. Mitterrand to veto any Community agreement which involved concessions to America. At the same time, FNSEA, the mainstream farmers' association, promised an all-out campaign of reprisals against American products throughout France and Europe if the government gives in.

The violent demonstration round the US embassy in Paris on Wednesday was just a tiny taste of what Europe could expect, farmers said. FNSEA and more militant groups have a record of making good their threats and getting away with violent civil disobedience unpunished.

Ramming home government resistance to any agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, blamed Britain for trying to force an accord to save its reputation. "On agriculture,

the British presidency [of the EC] is ending in failure," he said. "For domestic political reasons, they would like a Gatt accord presented at the Edinburgh summit to save their presidency."

He singled out John Gummer, the agriculture minister, as the only one of his European colleagues at a Brussels meeting on Monday to have failed to state the need to stand up to American pressure. "The British were not very 'fair play'," he added.

In a day of media appearances aimed at demonstrating government hostility to any agreement on the current terms, M. Soisson said France would immediately demand new negotiations if a deal was reached, but he declined to say whether it would apply its veto. He acknowledged, however, that President Mitterrand had told an emergency cabinet meeting that while France could not "kneel before the United States", it could not

win in the end by going it alone.

In Washington yesterday Ray MacSharry, the European farm commissioner, said three hours of talks with the Americans on Wednesday night had produced a "narrowing of differences" on the oilseeds row. Frans Andriessen, the EC trade commissioner, was more forthright, saying that there was "a serious chance of making a deal today". An EC official said the Americans had presented a reworked proposal which the two sides were studying in detail.

US officials, who have more than once seen the talks break down when a deal seemed imminent, were slightly more circumspect. Carla Hills, the US trade representative, agreed that the negotiators had made "very good progress" on Wednesday night, but gave a warning that there were still many outstanding issues to be resolved.

Europe has until December 5 to resolve the oilseeds dispute before Washington imposes punitive tariffs of 200 per cent on an initial \$300 million (£196 million) worth of EC products, and on at least another \$700 million worth thereafter.

Whether or not the oilseeds dispute is resolved, John Major, as EC president, will come to Washington with Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, shortly before Christmas to meet President Bush for the twice-yearly EC-US summit. The trip will give Mr Major his first opportunity to meet Bill Clinton, the president-elect.



Soisson: British have 'not showed fair play'



Moment of truth: President Yeltsin handing the cockpit voice and flight data records of KAL 007, the Korean airliner shot down by Soviet jets in 1983, to President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea yesterday. Mr Yeltsin said: "I originally planned to send the

black box and related materials to the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organisation], but I brought them here as a show of friendship and apology."

To Seoul by a Moscow leader (Michael Breen in Seoul writes). After the presentation, Mr Roh said: "This shows sincerity building up between the two countries." Korean officials hope the box will reveal why KAL 007 strayed off course over Soviet installations.

Russia phases out war submarines

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

RUSSIA may stop building military submarines within the next three years, President Yeltsin announced yesterday in South Korea. He told the national assembly that Russia was already halving its production of new submarines and in two or three years would stop making submarines for military purposes.

He gave no details of submarine classes or present production levels. The latest *Military Balance*, published

by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, says Russia has 250 submarines, of which 55 are strategic, carrying ballistic missiles, and 183 are "hunter-killers" largely used for tracking other submarines.

Mr Yeltsin said that Russia was keen on taking steps in the Far East to reduce tension, and planned big cuts in its military potential. It had already significantly reduced the strength of its Pacific fleet, the largest of the four fleets maintained by the former Soviet Union.

Analysts in London said Russia was already reducing its submarine fleet as swiftly as possible, largely because it had

no need for such a large fleet, and also because many of the ageing ships had to be scrapped. Russia has reduced its submarine fleet by at least 40 over the past year, and could not break up any more vessels because of constraints in the safe disposal of nuclear components.

The Russians are thought to be still building three classes of hunter-killer submarines: the conventional Kilo class — the same as the ships sold to Iran — and the nuclear-powered Sierra and Akula classes. Only two conventional ships were commissioned last year. About eight Oscar-class vessels have been built since the huge ship was detected by the West a

decade ago, any continuing production is seen as the result of inertia. The Start-2 agreement commits Russia to reductions in strategic submarines, and Moscow has probably now halted production of the huge Typhoon-class ships. Russia is reported to be ready to sell some submarines based in Ukraine to China, two vessels from the North Sea fleet to India, and others to the Far East which may be broken up for scrap.

Last night Whitehall officials said they were assessing the importance of Mr Yeltsin's remarks, which seemed to take Andrei Kozyrev, his foreign minister, and other Russian officials by surprise.

Yeltsin keeps Moscow guessing on plans to shackle parliament

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

IN THE plush coffee bar of Moscow's White House, home to the fractious parliament, the deputies huddled over their subsidised cupcakes with unusually grim intensity. "He wouldn't dare," said one. "The stakes are too high," ventured another. "Just watch him," added a third.

The subject was the rumours of a state of emergency, fuelled by the declaration from a well-connected deputy that Boris Yeltsin plans to dissolve parliament forcibly next Tuesday and assume special powers. With just over a week before the Congress of People's Deputies meets, Moscow is in the grip of feverish intrigue with all eyes on Mr Yeltsin waiting to see

how he will head off the challenge to his government and reform programme posed by the Civic Union's confident opposition.

He has two broad options: he can enter a pact with the Union which has united the powerful industrial leaders under the banner of a slower reform plan, or risk a clampdown before the Congress by extending his powers of decree, dissolving parliament with military backing and calling for a referendum to change the constitution and dissolve Congress for good. Mr Yeltsin would dearly love to get rid of this "super-parliament", which is a disruptive hangover from Soviet days.

Parliament yesterday re-

sponded to rumours that the dissolution option was being considered by saying that attempts to disband Congress or the parliament by referendum were illegal. Mr Yeltsin's supporters in the Democratic Russia movement announced that they would start collecting signatures for such a plebiscite at the weekend.

Politics this winter are being conducted by turns in unattributable whispers and rhetorical roars with a straight answer as hard to find as citrus fruit in a state shop. Speaking to industrial managers last weekend, Mr Yeltsin summarised the malaise saying: "Emotions are plentiful, facts fewer and constructive proposals scarce of all."

Sweden allows krona to float

Stockholm: Sweden allowed its embattled krona to float against other currencies yesterday, abandoning a fight that it said could lead only to higher interest rates.

The Central Bank said its decision to stop defending the krona's fixed exchange rate followed "substantial speculation against the crown". It said that yesterday morning's raising of the marginal lending rate had not been enough to stabilise the crown.

Carl Bildt, the prime minister, said the government had done everything possible to defend the krona's fixed exchange rate, and had a clear conscience. "The speculative forces proved just too strong," he said. (Reuters)

Danish cabinet is reshuffled

Copenhagen: Poul Schlüter, prime minister of Denmark, reshuffled his centre-right coalition cabinet after the resignation of Anders Fogh Rasmussen, his economy and taxation minister, over a budget scandal.

Peter Brødtofte, former Liberal party political spokesman, was appointed taxation minister, and the economy portfolio was transferred to Thor Pedersen, minister of the interior and Nordic affairs. (Reuters)

Leader sacked

Khojandi: Akbarsho Iskandarov, president of Tajikistan, has been sacked by parliament and replaced by Imomali Rakhmonov from the pro-communist south. The move seems likely to increase tension between Islamic militants and the communists. (Reuters)

Plea rejected

Berlin: Erich Honecker's lawyers unsuccessfully appealed for his trial to be halted because of his short life expectancy due to advanced liver cancer. The former communist leader of East Germany was found not to be in imminent danger of death. (AFP)

Berlin protests

Berlin: Berlin has sharply protested against plans for a permanent exhibition of Adolf Hitler's paintings at the Uffizi Museum in Florence. One senator described it as "an intolerable provocation to good taste and to all victims of fascism". (Reuters)

Oslo chooses

Oslo: The Norwegian Storting (parliament), following the lead of Finland and Sweden, its Nordic partners, was expected last night to vote to apply for EC membership. MPs were being allowed a free vote.

Tongue tied

Tokyo: Nippon Syntex KK, a pharmaceutical firm based here, has banned the use of Japanese at its immunology research centre and made English its official language so that visiting overseas chemists will feel at home, a spokesman said. (Reuters)

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Denktas: blamed for the stalemate

UK presses to renew Cyprus talks

BY MICHAEL BINYON

AFTER talks in London between George Iacovou, the Cypriot foreign minister, and Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister for Europe, Britain expressed strong disappointment at the failure of the latest Cyprus talks, and blamed Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, for the breakdown.

The two discussed prospects for the reconvening of the United Nations talks next March, and Mr Iacovou urged Britain to put pressure on the Turkish Cypriots to accept the UN plan as the basis for further discussion.

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Besieged town cheers arrival of UN relief under British guard

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH troops yesterday escorted the first UN relief supplies to reach the Muslim town of Tuzla in north Bosnia since it was besieged by Serb forces seven months ago.

The UN convoy, led by Scimitar light tanks, drove to Tuzla under Serb guns over a winding and muddy road through snow-covered mountains. Local people clapped and cheered as the convoy of British army trucks rolled into the town, where up to 200,000 people are trapped.

"I'm very pleased," said Major Jamie Sage, who commanded the convoy during the dangerous last 30-mile stretch of its route from the British forward base at

Kladanj. "But we still have to get back and we have to do it again tomorrow. For about six miles, we were in range of direct fire from anti-aircraft guns, machineguns and at least two tanks that we know of." Four Scimitars shepherded the nine trucks, loaded with food and rolls of polythene to weatherproof the damaged homes.

The British will spend five days shuttling between Kladanj and Tuzla with as much food as possible to sustain the population during the winter. The British troops, part of the 6,500-strong UN Protection Force (Unprofor) in Bosnia, have been charged with escorting aid convoys in

the central part of the former Yugoslav republic.

"We must get as much aid as possible to Tuzla while the weather holds," Major Martin Thomas said before the convoy set out. "The way things are going, we can expect a lot of breakdowns. The road is very difficult indeed, a very narrow track."

The first carpet of snow of the winter covered Sarajevo streets in near-freezing temperatures yesterday, a foretaste of the harsh conditions expected in the coming weeks by the trapped population of about 380,000. The UN relief agency has said it has no food reserves in Sarajevo and appealed to the warring parties to allow a new supply route from the Adriatic coast to be opened.

A UN convoy taking food and emergency supplies to Sarajevo came under attack on Wednesday in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, a UN official said in Geneva yesterday. Rod Redmond, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the last lorry in a five-truck convoy was damaged. No one was hurt.

The attack happened as the trucks, donated by Denmark and travelling under a Spanish military escort, were waiting to pass through a Bosnian Croat checkpoint north of Mostar. "The last truck in the convoy had its tyres shredded and its axle damaged, so they had to proceed without it," Mr Redmond said.

At least 70 ships are suspected of having sailed through UN sanctions to supply Serbia with fuel and essential supplies landed at ports in Montenegro, according to the Western European Union.

Red Cross keeps friends in touch

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

WITH telephone lines cut and front lines crisscrossing former Yugoslavia, the message service of the International Committee of the Red Cross has become a lifeline for hundreds of thousands.

Throughout the war in Croatia, the ICRC distributed 30,000 messages between families and friends divided by the conflict. But since the war began in Bosnia-Herzegovina the number of notes transmitted has risen exponentially. In the past 14 weeks 230,000 have been sent, and in 90 per cent of cases the addressee has been found. All messages are read in case someone has tried to slip in military information.

"Even in my worst dreams I never imagined I would be doing this," Olga Lazarevic, an ICRC worker, said. "But these are not just pieces of paper. There are whole families here, from all sides and all are suffering." Sava, now in Serbia, writes to his wife Zora and their son in Croat-controlled western Herzegovina: "I am missing you. I hope you can come here. I don't know what to say. Only, 'I love you'." Natasa Milinovic, who processes hundreds of messages a week, said: "He does not know that she is in a camp." When she typed Zora's name in her computer yesterday it indicated that she was being held in a Croat detention camp. Most messages reaching Belgrade now are from Serbs, many of whom are being shelled by their "own" army in Sarajevo. As Muslims and Croats have

fled towards Croatia, the ICRC's Zagreb office has handled most of their messages.

From Croat-held Mostar a family writes: "We're still in our flat but the balcony was blown off by a shell so that part is damaged. The windows are broken but we have put up plastic sheeting." Increasingly the messages from Sarajevo deal with the extortionate price of food. "A kilo of beans costs £10," writes one woman. Another pleads: "Send flour, bacon - whatever possible."

Some people have not lost their sense of humour. One man's three-line message reads: "In order not to burden the messengers - regards to all, the rest is either a novel or nothing."



Harbinger of change: President Walesa says Poland's new emphasis on industrial efficiency and performance means that unemployment will rise

Walesa talks of hardship ahead

Poland needs more rapid integration into the European Community, its president tells Eve-Ann Prentice

PRESIDENT Walesa of Poland appealed yesterday for the country's faster integration into the European Community, and attacked Britain for not understanding its problems.

"In the United Kingdom you drive on the left. Everyone else drives on the right, and you don't have the courage to shift. What is happening in Poland has a thousand times more consequences than anything you face," he told *The Times*.

Mr Walesa expressed irritation over the EC's reluctance to allow Poland to join the Community. Warsaw has an association agreement with Brussels but the EC has indicated that Poland will not be able to become a full member for at least ten years.

The president said Polish fears of the German far right reinforced the need for European unity. There were "demons at work" in post-unification Germany, he said. "In Germany, old fears are awakening because the old system has collapsed and a new one has not fully emerged yet."

Mr Walesa said he opposed a referendum on the strict abortion law being prepared by Poland's parliament. A parliamentary commission has called for two-

year jail terms for doctors carrying out the operation, and the bill would overturn 42 years of liberal abortion laws. The draft abortion law has the backing of the powerful Roman Catholic Church in Poland. A referendum is being sought by 120 deputies, and they are supported by prominent intellectuals.

Mr Walesa said: "I am in favour of all sorts of referendums... But I'm against this where private conscience is involved. We cannot enforce conscience by law and, as a practising Catholic, I am against abortion."

Mr Walesa also indicated that unemployment was set to rise as Poland continues its drive towards privatisation. He admitted that a third of Poles were worse off now than three years ago. His message for the nearly two-and-a-half million unemployed was gloomy: "The philosophy of the past was to give everyone employment. Now we are talking about performance and efficiency. Many huge factories are oversized and many workplaces are not situated in the right place or manufacturing what they should. Our nation is educated and everyone is used to being employed. But we will have to close down many workplaces."

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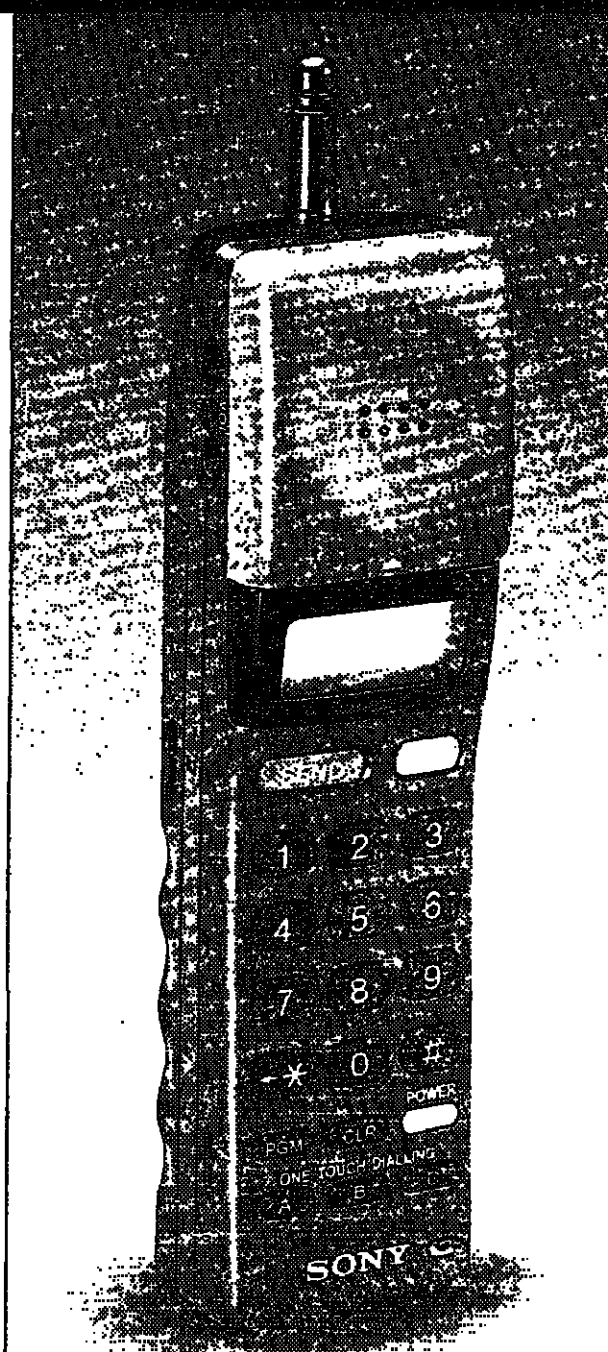
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4. Does it come with three months' free insurance against loss or theft of your Sony phone? (If it doesn't, you're being robbed.)
5. Does his airtime package come with a unique cost control system which means you can agree your monthly call usage in advance? (Not unless it's from C.C.C., it doesn't.)
6. Does it come with a choice of Cellnet or Vodafone airtime? (At C.C.C., we believe in freedom of choice.)
7. And finally, does the airtime package he recommends come with a choice of tariff that suits you best - Lifetime, Lowcall, Business or Primetime? (If it doesn't, don't choose it.)

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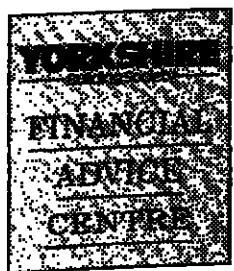
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Old-style cabinet for Romania

Bucharest: Fears that Romania is returning to old-style conservatism were confirmed yesterday when the make-up of the new government was announced (Sean Hillen writes).

Among the 22-member cabinet are several members of Nicolae Ceausescu's state planning committee, including the new prime minister, Nicolae Vacaroiu. The new minister of health is Iulian Minca, a dietician, who treated the deposed dictator for diabetes and spearheaded a national campaign on the benefits of vegetables when there was no meat.

Women curbed

Khartoum: Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist government has issued new decrees banning women from working in markets and other public places after 5pm. All shops have been ordered to close down for two hours for Friday noon prayers. (AP)

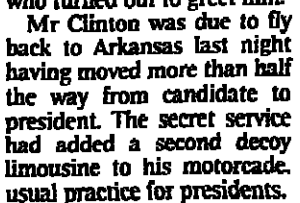
Kurds relieved

Habur, Turkey: More than 700 lorries loaded with winter relief supplies and fuel for the Iraqi Kurds have rolled into the north of the country from Turkey since Kurdish separatists lifted an embargo on the region. (AFP)

Railway death

Tokyo: A Japanese Bullet train killed a man who ran into its path, the first death since the high-speed rail service started up 28 years ago. The train driver applied the brake but could not stop in time. Police said the man committed suicide. (AP)

حکومت الاصل



هكذا من الأصل

Warlord with a key to peace

Sam Kiley reports on the man who could plunge Angola into the abyss

Crude plastic dolls made in China for the Third World market dangled from the walls of the abandoned shop somewhere near Huambo, Angola's second city high on the central plateau. The stench from over-filled latrines filled the hot, wet night air. In this dank concrete box roofed in corrugated iron, two United Nations bigwigs, weary after a six-hour wait at the local airport, but anxious to work their diplomatic charm on the man who held the key to peace in Angola, met Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Politically and physically disorientated after moving from hideaway to hideaway every six hours for more than a month, Savimbi, founder and leader of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), must have found the meeting ten days ago as humiliating as the two quintessentially British envoys found it uncomfortable. Once feted by presidents Bush and Reagan in the White House, and the pet guerrilla of the right wing establishment in Europe and America, he was now reduced to the status of a fugitive in a country he could hardly win.

Margaret Anstee, the head of the UN's mission to Angola, and Marrack Goulding, the organisation's under secretary general for peace keeping operations, talked with the beleaguered guerrilla commander for three and a half hours and left empty handed. He remained and remains silent on whether he is serious about peace.

With an "all party conference" organised by his long-time enemy the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) scheduled for tomorrow and the convocation of parliament based on the results of September's elections for the end of the month, the government looks certain

to marginalise Unita and is anxious to go onto the offensive against the rebels. Savimbi, isolated from his former friends in the west and South Africa, faces a political impasse which can only end in violence.

Wandering the bush and backways of the countryside in a huge General Motors 4X4 pickup, alone and constantly afraid of government assassination attempts, Savimbi could see no way clear for a compromise and could even lose his life at the hands of his own people. But with his forces thinly spread over the country a military solution would mean years more war and a return to the conflict which cost 350,000 lives since 1975 and ended with a peace accord signed in Bicesse, Portugal, last May.

A year ago Unita was riding high. With the withdrawal of Soviet support and 50,000 Cuban soldiers from the government's side, Savimbi had forced president Eduardo dos Santos and his MPLA to the negotiating table and won an agreement to hold multi-party elections within 18 months for the first time since independence in 1975.

He was convinced he would win a landslide. But things started to go wrong at the beginning of the year when stories of atrocities allegedly orchestrated by Savimbi behind Unita lines surfaced.

Washington's favourite fighting pawn began to get the cold shoulder from old friends in the Pentagon and State Department (who since 1986 had supplied Unita with covert military aid to the tune of at least \$200 million). American diplomats lectured him about the need to behave with moderation. By election time 26 per cent of Unita and 65 per cent of government forces had been demobilised. Since then, almost all of Unita's ex-soldiers have returned to arms.

The American advice went



Orator in the bush: Jonas Savimbi delivers a speech to his supporters — in the face of a new government likely to be announced tomorrow he faces a political impasse

unheeded. Savimbi, who was notorious within his own organisation for massive mood swings matched by displays of violent temper, had already begun to show signs of uncontrolled behaviour in his dealings with outsiders: a stark and worrying contrast with the lucid and suave demeanor with which he used to charm support from right-wing politicians in the West.

The more concerned he became about losing to the MPLA's sophisticated election campaign which portrayed dos Santos as a conciliator, the more he insisted a loss at the polls would be proof of rigging.

Bouncing onto the stage through a cordon of heavily

armed guards in one-way dark glasses in Luanda's May 1 Square for the last of his campaign speeches before voting started, Savimbi grabbed the microphone by the throat. But the moment he spoke in a hoarse whisper the crowd, no more than 10,000, felt a frisson of disappointment at his dwindling spirit.

A brilliant military leader he may be, but as a civilian politician he was a virgin. Instead of selling "Savimbi for Peace" he gasped that the newly-formed Emergency Police, an elite paramilitary unit formed by the government from its own special forces, would be "smashed in the face" when he won the elections. He did not win.

"People did not vote for the MPLA, they voted against Unita. Savimbi simply frightened them away with his warrior attitude," said a western ambassador in Luanda.

By the time the election results had been announced in early October, dos Santos had won 49 per cent of the vote in the presidential race and the MPLA swept the board in the legislative elections. A second round would have to settle who would be president but Savimbi had already left the capital and set himself up in Huambo, the capital of Huambo province—the heartland of his tribal supporters, the Ovimbundu.

Now he was in pursuit not of democracy but of power for himself and his people. He insisted that the elections had been a fraud, while the UN said they had been free and fair. Violent clashes between his men, who strutted about the capital armed to the teeth and displaying chests full of brass M-79 grenade shells the size of goose eggs, and the MPLA, began to increase.

By mid-October, in touch with the outside world only by satellite telephone, Savimbi was the subject of a diplomatic

Savimbi was notorious within his own organisation for massive mood swings matched by displays of violent temper

onslaught. The UN security council sent a delegation to Luanda and Huambo which came away with nothing. But he agreed to see Pk Botha, South Africa's foreign minister. "You are my only friend left in the world," the lonely Chinese-trained guerrilla told Botha in Huambo.

Botha's visit postponed a major outbreak of fighting for about a week but Savimbi was unable to reach an accord with him. It emerged that Botha's agenda for Angola had less to do with absolute peace than with a peace based on a federal system of "separate development". Because of his large numbers of supply flights behind Unita lines, Botha is no longer welcome in the country.

The final blow to Savimbi's peace of mind came on October 31 and November 1 when, under an assault from the

emergency police, who had decided to destroy Unita's offices and neutralise wipe out its personnel in Luanda a convoy of eight 4X4 vehicles tried to burst out of Savimbi's villa in the Miramar district and race out of the city. They got a few hundred yards before they ran into a storm of fire which sent the trucks careening off the road at 90 mph and killed Savimbi's nephew Salopeto Pena—the inheritor of Savimbi's royal Ovimbundu bloodline—was killed. His other nephew, General Ben-ben, was for two weeks thought to have died too, but he managed to roll clear of the bullets and rolling vehicles and walked out of the city.

The death and capture of most of Unita's high command came just before attacks launched against the

Ovimbundu in Luanda, putting any hopes of a lasting reconciliation beyond hope. On top of that Savimbi's own verbal racial attacks on whites and mixed race Angolans now indicate that he is preparing to go on the offensive against the MPLA and against the "conspiracy to further enslave his people".

In some ways he has the upper hand. His 50,000 highly motivated men trained by the CIA and South African commandos, armed with Stinger missiles and heavy cannon have pushed the forces of the MPLA out of 60 per cent of the country. He controls the bush while they control the cities.

"Some way must be found to bring Savimbi in from the cold but he is frightened, he will never get rid of his own armed forces, and he believes he has no friends. On top of that, many of us fear he is genuinely unstable and ready to explode," said a western diplomat in Luanda.

"The truth is no one can find a way back to peace for Savimbi and given his state of mind no one can see him following it even if it was found."

THE TIMES

READER OFFER

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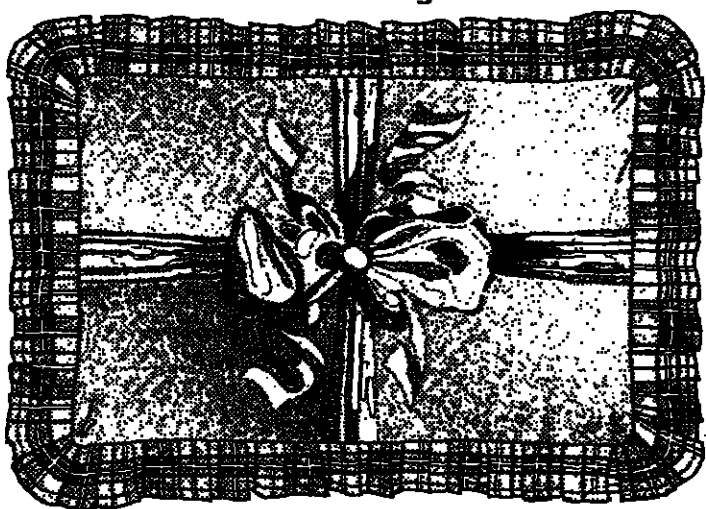
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Just a small token of esteem

Six successful decades of an idea that never made a profit

Book tokens — those marvellous standbys for aunts, uncles, the terminally indecisive and people you hardly know — are this year celebrating their 60th anniversary. So, surprisingly, they are a pre-war creation. No doubt, my view of them is coloured by childhood memories of receiving my very first book token and thinking how much more I would have preferred actual money.

Frankly book tokens are not much fun to receive. It is difficult to feign rapture over what look like a couple of Luncheon Vouchers stapled into an all-purpose card. But the subsequent delicious luxury of roaming around a bookshop clutching such a licence for abandon is unsurpassed.

When the idea was introduced in 1932, it was a new thing and therefore treated with a good deal of suspicion. It was quickly pointed out, however, that the scheme would encourage the young to be readers for life (a belief that is still actively promoted). Many quickly perceived too that to give a book token to an adult was a mutually flattering thing to do ("I am in the habit of buying books on a regular basis and you look as if you can probably read").

So before long the entire wheeze was elevated to the level of a good thing, on which pinnae it remains today. You never hear anyone knocking good old book tokens, apart from the odd child, insufficiently well brought up to receive them graciously and not mutter about their finger-



Now read on: book tokens open the door to literature

You could be the one who extends a child's vision

one is forecasting a rise. December is book-token time, as sales can amount to 40 per cent of the annual total.

Tokens — or gift vouchers, as the trade calls them — are now as thick on the ground as autumn leaves, with every chain store jostling for a share

of the sort of shoppers who have twice traipsed the length and breadth of the high street, finally deciding that their nieces and nephews will have to have a token and like it. Research on behalf of Book Tokens suggests that their main rivals are Marks & Spencer and Boots, and not, as one might have supposed, W.H. Smith or Our Price.

In the face of this, it comes as something of a surprise to learn that Book Tokens as a company does not make any money. Moreover, it is not

intended to make any money. The company is wholly owned by the Booksellers Association, whose avowed intention is to further literacy and encourage the sale of books.

The Christmas promotional campaign for book tokens (which kicks off with a full-page colour advertisement in *Annabel* this weekend) is designed to press the message home. It relies upon the testimonies of such personalities as Jilly Cooper, who says that book tokens "have produced more happiness than most things in the 20th century" (the books rather than the tokens, one supposes), and Ted Aliberry, the thriller writer, who chips in with "Give a book token and you could be the one who extends a child's vision for the rest of his life".

So clearly for some the book token is not a last minute oh-God-I-don't-know-what-the-hell-to-get-him-afterthought, but a life-enhancer of almost mystical importance — a great comfort to those who thought they were merely dithering.

Comfort is a good deal of what it is all about, particularly at this time of year when the British like to assemble the costly familiar about them (poems, Cadbury's Roses, unbreakable nuts).

The profile of the book-token buyer has changed little over the years. She tends to be a middle-aged woman buying for a child, and on average she spends £5, which of course corresponds to the price of no known book in the kingdom. But it was ever thus: book-token clutches are quite often seen topping up the value, or else trailing around the bookshop again in a forlorn attempt to use up the change.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Hard lessons, statistically speaking

After a life of energetic public service, the buoyant Sir Claus Moser, 70 next week, remains optimistic about the ills of his adopted country.

Do not ring the bell", it says on the front door of the Warden's lodge at Wadham College Oxford, "unless you expect an answer." I rang. Inside, Sir Claus Moser was between meetings. He sits on "30 or 40" boards, commissions, committees, trusts and governing bodies: a life of sitting, chairing, producing reports. He will be 70 next Tuesday, but the statistician who first introduced us to *Social Trends* in 1957 remains enthralled by questions like: what sort of society do we want? And how should education best serve that society?

Statistics and education: you would think Sir Claus would be the first to welcome yesterday's league tables on exam results — but a statistician requires more sophisticated information. "We cannot compare school A with school B without additional details," he says. These may prove that school B, whose results look poor, has done more to improve its pupils than school A, with its top-notch catchment.

When Sir Claus made his British Association speech, two years ago, about Britain becoming "one of the least adequately educated of all the advanced nations", it began his National Commission on Education. His speech had already identified the glaring problem: a national torpor, a failure to connect learning with opportunity, except perhaps in Scotland, or among Jewish and Asian communities, where there is the self-help motivation to work hard.

Two years on, he had spent all Tuesday with the commission, and we talked about education for 40 minutes, but if I were to list the themes they would seem wearisomely familiar, even platitudinous. Money needed, for books, school buildings, teachers' salaries. "You can't talk about the delights of learning, when thousands of children can't experience it." The need of industry "to offer the educated child a better starting salary than the less-educated child, or parents won't encourage children to stay on". Wasn't it just glaringly superfluous to report, as Sheffield University did this week, that the children of professional parents, in any school, outperform children of manual workers? And isn't it immutable?

"I am an optimist," he says. "I wanted this commission to get some way towards a change in attitude. I wanted education to be higher on the political agenda, and

my goodness that has happened: though I wish some aspects of the classroom, like the curriculum and 'standards', weren't so much a political ping-pong game."

The cruel fact is that, 30 years after the Robbins committee (on which he sat) laid the foundations for a dramatic rise in higher education — from 7 per cent to 20 per cent of school-leavers today — the ratio of students from poorer backgrounds to those from better-off backgrounds remains exactly the same. And what about the depressing lack of prospects of jobs for even the best graduates?

His optimism continues. "In ten years there will be virtually no unskilled jobs: most new jobs will be brain jobs, needing graduate qualifications. By then, one in three will go into higher education. As David Sainsbury said, what we need is a generally more educated population."

The commission — with members from industry, banking, the law and so on — will report next year. The calibre of and respect for the teaching profession will be central. "My father said to me in 1936: 'If you decide not to go into the family bank, you might think of schoolteaching.' It was held up as something prestigious; and rather difficult to get into unless one was really bright. My hope is that one day that might be the case again in Britain."

Sir Claus seems driven by the need to give something back to his adoptive country. He has often spoken movingly about his schooldays in Berlin, when the teacher's "Heil Hitler" was a daily humiliation. In 1936, his parents sent him to Frensham Heights, the co-educational boarding school. After the war he sailed, via the London School of Economics (LSE), the Central Statistical Office, the Royal Opera House and Rothschild's bank, into the British establishment.

He met Mary, his half-Swiss artist wife, at the LSE and married her 46 years ago. After reading Ruth Gledhill's article on the British Jews in *The Times Saturday Review* last week, he is forthright in defence of marrying out of the faith. "Being Jewish is central to me. I wouldn't be sitting here if I weren't Jewish. I'd be in Berlin in the bank. I love being involved in Jewish matters, and I feel as good, as committed a Jew as more Orthodox Jews. I hate this divisiveness." He goes irregularly to the West London synagogue of the much-admired Rabbi Hugo Gryn. "One



"I wish some aspects of the classroom, like the curriculum and 'standards', weren't so much a political ping-pong game": Sir Claus Moser on British education

is a Jew because one was born a Jew." But as one who declares, "I owe my very happy and interesting life to this country", the thought of the Bosnians in Austria refused entry to Britain fills him with grief and shame. "This is the age of the refugee," he says. "It is one of the worst things that can happen to a person, apart from torture. I realised as I got older what it had meant to my parents to be warmly received here. And look at the luck I've had. Chairman of the Royal Opera House, Head of a government department! To allow that to a refugee: terrific, a wonderful record for Britain, supposedly a xenophobic country."

The 70,000 who came from Germany and Austria in the 1930s have enriched British life, and received a hell of a lot back. I know this is idealist talk, the arms cannot be opened 180 degrees — but they can be opened much wider than they are now. What we are doing at the moment is pathetic." He cites the Israelis, taking in 700,000 Russian Jews, "struggling to make these Russians part of their society. But somehow it will be done."

Having returned to the Labour fold at the last election (from an interlude with the SDP), he is unsurprisingly pro-European. Could he, as a statistician, phrase a question to discover how close to the rest of Europe people really feel? "Well, we had a referendum under Mr Heath, one of my revered bosses. And that was the moment I had real hope. He had somehow managed to raise our sights as a nation above the trivial. On Europe, leadership is all-important. If only our

leaders managed to convey to us the grandeur of the wider European vision in a truly passionate way — instead of getting buried in the trivial regulations of Maastricht, which I find deeply depressing — the public would respond more positively. I never thought I would hear all that anti-German stuff coming out again."

"One thing in my life remains very Germanic," he says. "Once a year, I review my life in a notebook, writing what I would like to happen next year. There came a year, after Rothschild's, when I wrote that what I would really love would be to become the head of an Oxford college."

Eight years later, the college rules state with Oxonian obfuscation that the Warden must retire "on the July 31 following the October 30 following his 69th birthday" so, after next summer, Oxford will miss Sir Claus — whose wide and unobnoxious hospitality has made him a popular figure. He invites 30 undergraduates to a lunch party every week. "One forgets how crucial the age of 18 is. I

worry that they feel lonely when they come up, but what I find is that they worry about their parents being lonely."

He is such an inveterate listmaker he makes lists of lists, obsessive about always writing on a clean piece of paper. "I sometimes think I am going bananas, being involved in too many things. I am a workaholic, I like every day to be filled. But I ought to have been more concentrated. I am quite often late for meetings, or have to leave early, or haven't read the relevant papers properly. I am greatly looking forward to withdrawing from things, and doing a few things better."

And to leaving whole days clear in which to play his piano. He is a concert pianist *manque*; the highlight of the coming year is being invited to play the piano at Teikyo University in Tokyo.

"Look how extraordinary my life has been," he says. "At ten, I was at school in Berlin. At 20, I was at the LSE, about to go into the RAF to fight against the country I had come from. My 50th birthday party was spent playing chamber

music at home. My 60th was a concert in the crush bar at Covent Garden. And here I am at 70, in Oxford, having a concert in the Sheldonian." He will play some Mozart with "a very famous pianist" (his three children turning the pages) before a few hundred friends.

He always found it hard to say no to a committee, feeling flattered to be asked. "One kids one's self that they will be desolated if one says no, but they just say 'We understand', and one realises there are 1,000 other people out there they could ask. One is totally dispensable. It has taken me to the age of 70 to realise that."

Is it because, as a refugee, he wanted to prove he could be as good as anyone else? "There is a bit of that. I have always been ambitious. If one is from outside, even if one has become almost totally British, one is not English by origin, but mid-European, and, unconsciously, I take an extraordinary pride in what has happened to me, and have a slight desire to go on proving myself."

Feminism's new British launch stands by the old radical values

Among the spawnings of the 1960s was a raft of "alternative publications". Now strictly yesterday's papers, they dealt variously with the perennial delights of dope and sex and rock 'n' roll and — as the era advanced — with the new sexual politics, otherwise known as women's and gay lib. A motley crew, they tended to millennial hyperbole and idiosyncratic design. They had few advertisements, lacked gloss and, it must be said, readers. Then came *Ms*, named after the new honorific, a term that carried much the same resonance as "bra-burner". *Ms* came "up from under" as they used to say, in 1972, the brainchild of Gloria Steinem, a woman noted mainly until then for being sufficiently attractive to pose as a Playboy bunny for a piece of investigative hackery. Steinem did for the new women what Helen Gurley Brown had done for the single girl ten years earlier with *Cosmopolitan*. The mane of sleek blonde hair, the mini-skirts, the aviator glasses: men were blinded by the picture, but women more and more of them — picked up the message.

Ms had little to offer lesbian separatists, but they weren't the constituency. It was custom-built for the fringe: keen, fairly hip but not quite committed; for women wanting to dip a tentative toe into the current of the new movement. *Ms* was just what was needed. It wasn't *Spare Rib* or *Red Rag* or one of those unrelentingly combative journals. It was *Cosmo*, as it were, with under-arm hair. It had the right articles — a little equal rights, a little job satisfaction, a little non-sexist sexuality — but it also had those ads in which the usual idealised beauties, albeit pictured in "liberated" jobs, puffed the cigarettes that said "You've come a long way, baby".

In fairness it had cred. Twenty years ago, in a world

Twenty years on: hit or *Ms*?

where it only took men to lengthen their hair or women to shorten their skirts to terrify the powers that be, the signs were much simpler. When the current has always flowed quietly, it takes but the tiniest wave to rock the boat. Next Tuesday, 20 years on, *Ms* arrives on British newsstands: but the magazine that will be justling for space in



Image changer: Robin Morgan

WH Smith is a very different creature from the original. By the end of the 1980s it had reached, as its editor-in-chief Robin Morgan puts it, "a hiatus". *Ms* Steinem was an eminence rose, fast vanishing into her current obsession, as evidenced in her recent book, *Revolution and From Within*: groups based on those "twelve-point plans" that began with Alcoholics Anonymous and now cover dope, seaholms, gamblers and other on-going American neuroses. Meanwhile *Ms* editorial was fast-forwarding through the "post-feminist" hypothesis: it's all over, we've done it, enough with the angst.

That all changed in 1990. New owners, a new edition, and a whole new attitude:

Down the tubes with glossy old *Ms*, and up in its place with ideologically pure, multi-racial, non-sexist, non-racist, non-classist spanking new *Ms*. *Ms* Morgan, a long-time writer for the magazine who came close to quitting in despair at the Eighties revisionism, became editor. Slick paper went, so did advertising. The magazine became a bi-

The old *Ms* wasn't *Spare Rib* — more *Cosmo* with under-arm hair

monthly; it reached out to new constituencies; it adopted a new language — and sales went up. And its eight-page "Sisterhood is Global" section at the front took *Ms* beyond the United States and on to the rest of the world.

Ms Morgan says: "When we relaunched, we said very proudly that we had done away with slick paper and slick thinking. We don't do movie-star coverage. We don't do fashion or wine. *Ms*-readers want facts, statistical ammunition with which to argue, news about feminism, stories where you have an intersection between the personal and the political, role-model lives."

No ads, no glitz, no glitter. After looking like *Cosmo* with ideology in the Seventies,

Nineties *Ms* is closer to *Spare Rib*: women of colour, men of conscience, mothers "mentoring" daughters (and vice versa), sexual harassment, toxic raps and all the issues. The problem for *Ms* UK, however, is not quality but quantity. At £2.95 it's expensive, even every two months, but as *Ms* Morgan points out it's not so much a magazine as a "magabook". "It's much more of a small anthology that comes out every eight weeks than a magazine. Women are definitely getting a good read for their money."

Ms is selling 200,000 copies in America, but are there enough potential readers here? After all we have our own feminist publications. "Spare Rib and Everywoman I admire, I'm a fan. In no way, shape or form do we see ourselves as being in competition with them. On the contrary, we hope to support them, and use people who write for them. But considering that women are a majority of the population, surely there's room for all three."

The bottom line of course is content. Issue one is indeed international, but the British coverage boils down to a short piece on Ladycabs and similar women-only transport. Earth shaking? Hardly. Promised are profiles of lawyer Helena Kennedy, Labour's Margaret Beckett and other heavyweights. There will also be space for a pair of women less widely associated with "liberation". Read this, *Hello!*, and weep.

"When you talk about Di and Fergie, most feminists say 'Oh my God, the royals, how irrelevant.' But here are two women who married into a powerful family and suddenly lives had been prescribed — if these were two ordinary women then it would be very different and the feminist sympathy juices would flow."

JONATHAN GREEN

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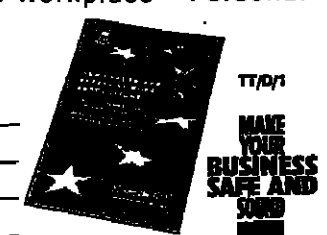
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Graham Leonard, former Bishop of London, outlines his plan to forge a relationship with the Roman Catholics

How to leave the Church of England

Ever since the Reformation, the Church of England has claimed to be the Catholic Church in this country. Whether or not that claim is justified, it is one which is reflected in its title-deeds, the Book of Common Prayer, the Ordinal and the 39 Articles.

That claim has been based upon four pillars, which in the last century were summed up in the Lambeth Quadrilateral as expressing the doctrinal basis of Anglicanism. These four pillars are Scripture, as interpreted by tradition, the creeds, the sacraments and the ordained ministry.

In recent years each of these pillars has been undermined and has begun to crumble away. The theological implications of the recent decision of the General Synod has caused their collapse.

With regard to Scripture, the traditional position of the Anglican Church has been that nothing can be required of belief for eternal salvation but that which may be concluded and proved by Scripture. Those who support the ordination of women to the priesthood have not sought to claim such sanction for it but have had to invoke contemporary fashion and call upon secular support.

There is in the legislation a built-in mechanism to ensure that the majority view will prevail. Few people realise, for example, that it will be illegal for the prime minister to nominate as a bishop a priest who cannot accept women priests.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is reported as having made two astonishing statements. The first is that the "ordination of women to the priesthood alters not a word of the Scriptures, the Creeds, or the faith of our Church". Such a statement can be made only on the basis of Humpty Dumpty's use of words. "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less."

The second statement is that "there is no connection between the ordination of women to the priesthood and feminism". Has Dr Carey not read any of the literature supporting the ordination of women in which the connection is explicitly made?

What is just as extraordinary is his expressed hope that we will play a full part in the life of the Church when the legislation provides for us to be marginalised and finally extinguished.

What then are we to do? What are the options? First, the legislation will not become effective for at least 12 months. But we must make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that we cannot accept the change.

The second point is that we must not become a sect. That, in fact, is what the Church of England has become by its unilateral action. We must seek to be admitted to the communion of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and to do so not just as individuals but as a body of those who are committed to orthodox belief and practice.

It is this second point which in my judgment, rules out the first option, namely that of allying ourselves with one or other of the so-called "continuing Churches"



Leonard: no to women

which exist in the US, Canada, Australia, England and elsewhere. While I admire them for having the courage of their convictions, it cannot be denied that, depending so much upon personalities, they seem to lead to further division.

A second option is to seek hospitality from the Eastern Orthodox Churches. While they are very

sympathetic, they are so closely related in this country to the indigenous churches of which they are part that it is difficult to see this as a realistic possibility.

The third option is to seek relationship with the Roman Catholic Church. This we would have to do as supplicants and without presumption, asking if a way could be found for us somehow to preserve our Anglican identity while being in communion with the See of Peter. I do not think that it is for us to suggest how this might be achieved. We can only hope and pray that the Vatican and the hierarchy here in England will give sympathetic consideration to any possibility of a way forward.

We know of the provisions for the Anglican Rite in the US through little of how it works in practice. It may be that for a time their local Anglican priest will be orthodox, in which case they will be able to minister in their parish church. But the time will come when they will not be able to find one where they

of Opus Dei, but the code envisages a wider use.

However, the canon which gives us most encouragement is canon 372. Having referred to the territorial nature of dioceses, paragraph (b) reads as follows: "It is the duty of the bishop to ensure that the pastoral care of those to whom they are ministered, they should find it very difficult to accept that their ministrations are denied utterly and finally."

However, there are responsible people in the Roman Catholic Church who suggest that although the Bull *Apostolicae Sedis* applied to the situation existing in 1896, subsequent developments — and particularly the participation of old Catholic bishops in Anglican consecrations — could warrant a different response, at least for those ordained since then.

can be so in good conscience. It would be of the greatest benefit to such people if, possibly as an interim measure, they could be permitted to make their communion in the local Catholic Church.

There is, of course, the question of Anglican Orders, which does present a problem for many orthodox Anglican clergy. Out of pastoral care for those to whom they have ministered, they would find it very difficult to accept that their ministrations are denied utterly and finally.

I would want to stress that we are not asking for recognition to continue an Anglican ministry, but those who have accepted the magistratum and are in communion with the Holy See.

The author was Bishop of London 1981-1991.

The line between life and death

Alan Ryan on the agonising moral dilemmas posed by the Bland case

Yesterday the High Court agreed that Tony Bland, who was crushed in the Hillsborough tragedy, and has been comatose ever since, may have his feeding tubes withdrawn and be allowed to die. The Official Solicitor has appealed against the judgment, arguing that Tony Bland's doctors will be murdering him by withdrawing treatment.

There is every chance that the case will reach the House of Lords. It confronts British lawyers and doctors with an issue that American courts have been struggling with for years — how to draw a line between what doctors may and may not do when the time has come to let their patients die. As one extreme stand orthodox Catholic teaching and right-to-life groups like Operation Rescue, arguing that the traditional prohibition against intentionally killing the innocent is all we need, and at the other, the Hemlock Society, and the voters of California who on November 3 narrowly failed to legalise doctor-assisted suicide in their state.

Comatose patients are often unable to survive at all without life support machinery, feeding alone will not sustain life. Their ordinary bodily functions need mechanical help. Guidelines that tell us to keep "normal treatment" going as long as the patient is alive, but to abandon "extraordinary means" when they are obviously doing no good are adequate for such cases. American hospitals prolong the use of extraordinary measures because of a fear of being sued for not trying hard enough, and families sometimes have to take them to court to get them to stop, but the American Medical Association guidelines are clear even in such cases. It is when we get to Nancy Cruzan, who was injured in a car crash and died after three years of battles in the courts, and Tony Bland that it gets more difficult.

Like Nancy Cruzan, Tony Bland is in a "persistent vegetative state" (PVS), which means that his body functions without mechanical help, but there is no prospect of his regaining consciousness. However, he needs no more than nutrition to stay alive. Merely feeding somebody would not in most people's views count as "extraordinary" treatment; but withdrawing feeding can have only one effect, killing the patient, and that is the point of the withdrawal. Unlike the "extraordinary" case, where the

patient is already dying, and is only being kept alive by artificial means, we cannot say a PVS patient is dying, even if they are being artificially fed. That is why Nancy Cruzan's parents — who after four years thought it was time to stop — were fought every inch of the way by right-to-life groups and by the state of Missouri.

In America, as in Britain, patients have a right to refuse treatment they can, and are increasingly encouraged to, make "living wills" that detail what they want done, and more importantly what they do not want, if they are unable to decide for themselves. This includes being able to refuse artificial feeding. But Nancy Cruzan was in no position to accept or refuse anything. In her case the US Supreme Court took the view that individual states may lay down their own rules about what is and is not lawful medical practice, but they cannot override the clearly expressed wishes of patients. Missouri could keep Nancy Cruzan alive against her parents' wishes unless they went back home and found "clear and convincing evidence" that she would not have wished to live in a PVS condition; this they did. Once three of her workmates had testified that she had said on more than one occasion that she would not have wished to live in such a condition, the state of Missouri withdrew from the case, her court-appointed guardian agreed that she should be taken off her feeding tubes.

This was a characteristically American way out. When all is said and done, the United States is a country that believes passionately in the individual's right to choose — as well as the right of everyone else to scream advice. But it is a solution that works best where there is some clear expression of the patient's wishes. It is noteworthy that Sir Stephen Brown, giving the High Court's decision, appealed to Tony Bland's "best interests" and not to his wishes, and deferred to his American judge would not to his doctors' views about "good medical practice".

The Official Solicitor has taken the view that any act that intends death is murder, and murder is always wrong, even if committed out of a concern for the victim. That seems harsh, rigid, and inadequate in this case. But one can see why he is so eager to hold the line, and why this is an argument that is not going to go away quickly.

Woodstock in Washington

Ben Macintyre predicts bad music, worse clothes and not enough soap as the baby-boomers taste power



I am standing the Sixties was an era of bad music, worse clothes, self-obsession, too much facial hair and not enough soap.

The Sixties ethic which looks set to mark the Clinton presidency will be a marked improvement on the moth-balled atmosphere of the Reagan-Bush years, when youth was almost never mentioned, possibly because they couldn't remember it. Mutton dressed as lamb is still better than mutton dressed as mutton. But the Democratic campaign constantly harked back to the Sixties — even down to Kennedy-esque sessions with an ancient regime painted as innocent and old-fashioned. Thus, in the interests of economy, Bill Clinton travelled to Washington this week on

an elderly chartered jet instead of the military plane offered by the president, and elected to stay in a hotel rather than Blair House, the traditional guesthouse for visiting dignitaries. The extra security required around the Hay Adams Hotel will cost American taxpayers rather more in the end, but it is the image that counts.

Americans now in their forties seem particularly prone to the misapprehension that they, and only they, discovered that sex is fun, war is hell and wearing strange clothes bugs the heck out of adults. The Sixties generation was just as rapid and committed and rebellious as any other post-war group, but only it seems to feel the need to go on about it. People my age do

forever young in the Sixties, and listened. Power and success do not always sit comfortably with hip. James Carville, Bill Clinton's political consultant and chief ideologue of the Democratic campaign, made a point of wearing jeans to press conferences. As a sign of a rebellious spirit this was all very well, but the jeans were always spotted with a razor-sharp crease in them from the dry-cleaners. Grown-up rebels don't do their own ironing.

The Clinton administration-elect is already making strenuous efforts to distinguish itself from an ancient regime painted as innocent and old-fashioned. Thus, in the interests of economy, Bill Clinton travelled to Washington this week on

shore on about how marvellous it was to be a punk, and don't tell me Janis Joplin was more significant than Sid Vicious because she was a woman.

But all its much-vaunted emotional angst, the Sixties was a time of economic plenty, and the adolescents who flocked to Woodstock and protested at Berkeley have gone on to high-paying jobs, raise families and buy bourgeois accoutrements just like the people they professed against. Each new generation does that, each feels compromised eventually, but only the children of the Sixties are still talking, endlessly, about their generation.

Then there are feelings: the urgent need to relate with lovers, friends or relatives to discuss why they are not communicating. When the Gennifer Flowers scandal broke (even her name has a Sixties ring to it) the Clintons' response, typical of their generation, was to go on television and talk about their marriage, their feelings, and let it all hang out. This may have averted a crisis in the Democratic campaign, but it was agony to watch. They even named their only daughter after a Joni Mitchell song, poor girl. As the great American satirist Tom Lehrer once said, the kindest thing anyone can do if they cannot communicate is to SHUT UP.

Canny Bill Clinton, of course, is more committed to the Sixties vote than Sixties ideas (while Jimmy Carter was memorising all of Bob Dylan's lyrics, young Bill was already busy policy-work — fretting over issues), but that has not prevented many of his generation feeling vindicated by his election. Some have taken the result as a personal compliment. "It's awesome to see somebody who looks like me, and who has been given this tremendous burden," Jamn-Werner told *The New York Times* recently, adding modestly, "I feel it all the more because I could be in those shoes."

But for others, raised on the assumptions that you cannot trust anyone over 20, the election of 46-year-old Bill Clinton has produced a rapid-aging process like that moment in the film *Shogun* when Utsusa Andress walks into the immortal flame in a bid for eternal youth and turns into a popstar. Garrison Keillor, the curmudgeonly radio commentator and author mutated last week: "Presidents have always been old guys in suits with ropey necks, I'm 20 years younger than the President, and now suddenly in January, I'll be one year older than the president. Do you know how that feels?"

No, I don't. But please, don't tell me about it.

Brooke's hall of fun

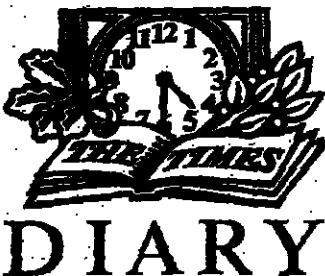
PETER Brooke's quiet determination appears to have succeeded where David Mellor's blustering style failed. After a search of more than seven months, the new minister has found luxurious new headquarters for the national heritage department bang in the centre of London's West End. The department is on the verge of signing up 68,000 sq ft of prime office space in Trafalgar Place, Cockspur Street, a stone's throw from the National Gallery, the Royal Academy of Arts and half a dozen West End theatres, not to mention a short drive down Whitehall to Westminster.

The 350 civil servants who will make the move are already celebrating. Under Mellor's leadership they had strongly resisted a move to Canary Wharf and other out-of-the-way locations. But given the keen interest of the Treasury, which will pick up the bill, few had dared expect such a smart location.

Mellor had argued long and hard with his former Treasury colleagues that his new department needed a suitably up-market location. But it is Brooke who has delivered the prime site complete with atrium, air-conditioning and

parking space, not only ensuring the undying loyalty of his staff but also symbolically indicating that the department of fun and free tickets is to be taken seriously by the rest of Whitehall.

Yesterday both the department and Chesterton, the agent that helped to find the new home (pictured below), refused to confirm the move but admitted negotiations are "at an advanced stage" and an announcement can be expected in a couple of weeks. Brooke has seen off the Motor Car Museum,



which had wanted 20,000 sq ft. The museum's disappointment is as nothing compared with that of the owners of No 1 Knightsbridge, who had hoped to lease their blue-chip address to the department. It is rumoured that the parties had agreed terms but the department changed its mind at the last minute.

Taking advantage of the recession, which many would say the government itself created, Brooke has snapped up the prime space at the bargain price of little more than £20 a sq ft.

Now we know

AFTER the out campaign claimed Napoleon as a Maastricht supporter in the French referendum, Edmund Burke, a noted opponent of the French Revolution, was

claimed this week as the patron saint of the anti-Maastricht lobby. The man most Tories regard as the founder of modern British political thinking would have opposed the treaty, according to Lord Rees-Mogg, the former editor of *The Times*, who told the Edmund Burke Society at the Reform Club this week. "Burke would not have given his consent to the treaty and would not have agreed in the House of Commons to its ratification. He would have thought it a Utopian ideal."

Foyle again

ONE of the most venerable institutions in the book world, Christina Foyle, passed another milestone yesterday when she presided over the 600th Foyle's literary lunch. In the 62 years since the lunch was conceived, Foyle, aged 81, has missed only one, when Lord Rilly introduced Roy Hattersley as a "poor man's Willie Whitelaw", in February 1991. "I was snowed in," she says. Foyle, who still works one day a week at the bookshop, was confident the tradition would continue, "even after I have gone." But she admitted things were not what they used to be. "The great writers have gone and everybody watches television," she says. "D.H. Lawrence was one of my favourite

guests but I also loved General de Gaulle." Yesterday the celebrated lawyer Sir David Napley made the speeches and the comedian Jim Davidson was in the chair to promote the charity they have helped to set up, the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust.

In the lunch's 62-year history there has been the occasional hitch. When Emperor Haile Selassie addressed the lunch, to appeal for support after the Italian invasion of his country, there was a problem. "We had to find a hotel whose waiters were not predominantly Italian. It was not easy. We ended up at the Connaught."

Worse was to come when Noel Coward was due to speak. The previous night he collapsed at the Phoenix Theatre. Robert Morley, the first-choice stand-in, promptly fell down the stairs. On the morning of the lunch, Dame Sybil Thorndike, the third choice, cancelled through illness. "It was the first time I feared we would not have a speaker," Foyle recalls. "Then Charlie Chaplin, who had not even replied to our invitation, walked through the door. He saved the day."

Non-alcoholic drinks do not have a huge market in the Irish Republic — which is perhaps why the recent dramatic fall in the price of

soft drinks there went largely unremarked. Those who did notice assumed it was something to do with the fluctuations in the European currency markets. The price cut is a direct result of the Boer War, which our Irish cousins, it seems, have suddenly realised ended some time ago. They have just abolished the

We'll soon have an Orange Free State



15 per cent excise duty, introduced in 1899 to help the British effort in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal during the war.

Not guilty

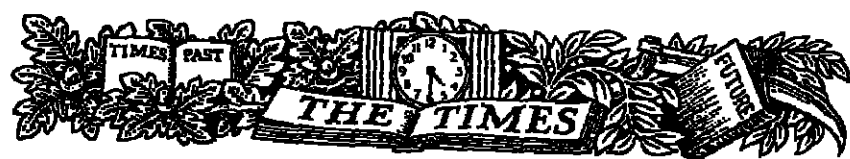
SO who was behind the BBC decision to pull Wednesday night's *Bookmark* programme, *The Poet, The Priestess and the Travelling*

Players, about Hastings Banda's appalling role in Malawi? The British Council led the appeals to the BBC to withdraw it, much to the film-makers' chagrin, and the finger has been pointed firmly at the novelist P.D. James, who is not only a governor of the BBC but is also on the British Council board.

Baroness James denies being the instigator. "It is with great reluctance that one agrees to a film being dropped," she says. "We received powerful advice from the British Council. I believe the right decision was made. It was taken not by me but by the BBC at the highest level. It is a pernicious regime in Malawi. Nevertheless, because of the advice we received, it was right that the programme was not shown."

One who disagrees is Nigel Williams, the programme's editor. "I stand by my programme," he says. "I hope it can be shown at the earliest opportunity. Phyllis James and I had a frank but friendly discussion. We agreed to differ."

Ironically, the subject of next week's *Bookmark* is P.D. James and the interviewer is Williams. "We had to postpone that, too, but for different reasons," Williams says. "We had intended to put it out at the same time as her last book, but we thought it might look like a plug for one of the books."



WHEN LIFE IS NO LIFE

The Bland case must not be allowed to set a precedent

The High Court's ruling that Tony Bland should be allowed to die is both compassionate and correct. But it would be dangerous to see this case as setting any new ethical guidelines. As technology has improved, the distinction between life and death has become blurred. There is now an almost infinite number of gradations between fully functioning life and complete extinction, each example of which should be evaluated on its own terms.

This case turned on what may seem a trivial point: whether artificial feeding constitutes medical treatment. It is perfectly legal for medication such as antibiotics to be withheld from the incurably ill. The question of whether feeding tubes came into this category determined whether Mr Bland's doctors would be guilty of unlawful killing by removing them.

Because the tube-feeding can only be carried out under medical supervision, the court decided that the tubes which provide Mr Bland with life-sustaining food do qualify as medical treatment. This was the technical issue on which the case was decided. However, the main factor in the judge's decision was probably the sympathy for the parents who felt that their son's condition rendered his life pointless. The Blands wanted a minimal existence to be brought to an end. Many of the families of the nearly 1,500 similar patients in Britain do not share their view. There is no question of discontinuing treatment in those cases.

Although supporters of euthanasia may claim this verdict as part of a climate of opinion moving in their favour, this is not a classic euthanasia case in which a patient is helped to die as a merciful release from suffering. Since Mr Bland cannot feel or experience anything, the decision to bring about his death has nothing to do with the relief of pain. What his physicians and parents argued was not that he needed to be

released from an intolerable existence — his existence being neither tolerable nor intolerable to him since he is not aware of it — but that it no longer constituted a human life and was therefore undignified and meaningless. The judge Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's Family Division, said of Mr Bland: "His spirit has left him and all that remains is the shell of his body."

The implications of this judgment need to be examined with unsentimental rigour. It is easy to succumb to rhetorical catchphrases such as "the right to die with dignity" without questioning how many people actually manage to exercise that right or what sort of legislation would be required to guarantee it. Medical science is forcing the courts to confront some of the most fundamental questions about what it means to be alive. The commonsense wisdom which seems to have determined the verdict on Mr Bland assumes that a basic criterion of human life is consciousness. But what does this mean? Is it enough to have sensations or must a person be capable of intentions and thoughts?

If the ability to think is necessary for a life to have meaning, what can be said of those whose mental age will never get beyond infancy? And what of the hopelessly senile or those rendered insensate by a stroke? Few decisions could be more potentially dangerous than those that determine which lives are worth living. The legal problems are as vexing as the philosophical ones: how can the best interests of a patient be decided when he is not sentient? Can such a patient be said to have any interests? If not, must the interests of his family be paramount? Every such tragic case is unique. What is important, therefore, is that each is considered separately on its merits and that the Bland case will not be treated as a generalised precedent for others.

CUT TO THE CORE

South Africa must purge its government to save itself

When F.W. de Klerk succeeded to the presidency of South Africa he inherited a country in a rotten state. Just how rotten South Africans soon began to discover as, in the chaos of change and transition, murderers, thieves, blackmailers, hit squads and their official paymasters began to emerge from the decaying fabric of the *apartheid* régime. Finally, this week Mr de Klerk appeared reluctantly to accept that the rottenness could extend to the very heart of his government. But his response — to hand control of military intelligence to the chief of the Defence Force — falls so far short of what is needed that doubts must remain as to whether it offers a cure or a cover-up.

Apartheid has long been revealed as a corrupt and corrupting ideology. For more than four decades governments stuffed millions of rands into the mouths of black satraps to maintain the myth that grand apartheid was something more than an elaborate bid to justify and disguise minority rule. When that failed, P.W. Botha ceded power and policy-making to South Africa's security establishment which, unaccountable to parliament and behind a screen of almost impenetrable secrecy, began to wage a squalid war on the government's "enemies" both at home and abroad.

What Mr Justice Goldstone has shown beyond doubt is that the war continued under Mr de Klerk's rule when the "enemy" was the political opponent with whom the president was seeking to negotiate. It was, moreover, being conducted with the connivance of some of his most senior military chiefs and with the possible knowledge of trusted members of his own cabinet. Thus Mr de Klerk's powder-puff response, an

internal Defence Force enquiry into its own wrong-doing, poses more questions than it answers — questions which begin to touch the president himself.

He will argue that he has already done a great deal to clear up the mess. He downgraded the once all-powerful State Security Council, cut the defence establishment and appointed the Goldstone Commission of enquiry into the violence which is tearing South Africa and the peace process apart. These were the responses of a parliamentarian and a lawyer with a respect for civil authority and a faith in the law — rare attributes in a Nationalist leader. But in the light of the Goldstone disclosures it is no longer enough. Mr de Klerk must give the commission greater powers and follow where it leads — even if that is to the doors of the cabinet and the highest echelons of the army.

His continuing failure to do so has opened a Pandora's box of suspicions: about a government blackmailed into inaction by its former hirelings; about the ultimate loyalty of the security establishment and its willingness to destroy the peace process through either coup or conspiracy; about the integrity not only of the president but of the negotiations themselves. This is especially critical now that the ANC's inner cabinet — although not yet its national executive — has embraced the concept of power-sharing with whites in a final political settlement in an obvious attempt to get the negotiations back on track. The South African president's integrity could be all that stands between a negotiated political settlement and a collapse into anarchy. He must act now to purge himself and his government of the rottenness at its core.

OLD CHINA HANDS

Patten deserves support from those whose policies have failed

The days when China could count on Sino-British diplomacy to undermine the authority of a Hong Kong governor or impose a veto on policies for Hong Kong are over. That is an important official message for China's vice-premier, Zhu Rongji, to take back to Peking after his visit to London this week. John Major and Douglas Hurd drove it home through their well-publicised meetings with Chris Patten, whose presence in town at the same time was not coincidental.

The point should never have needed to be made. But the Chinese government is not alone in sniping at Mr Patten's proposals to extend democracy in Hong Kong, and his breaking with precedent by consulting its people. China could easily overestimate the influence of its "old friends" in Britain, the Whitehall sinologists and businessmen who clustered round Mr Zhu this week.

Many of them echo Peking's complaints that Mr Patten should have asked China's permission before lifting a finger. They mutter sorrowfully that he is endangering Hong Kong by derailing the "smooth train" to the 1997 handover. But the real fear of these former architects of China policy is that the pusillanimous character of the advice they have been giving ministers for years will be exposed if he succeeds. The higher the waves Mr Patten has to ride between now and 1997, the more he will be scoffed at as an amateur out of his depth.

Mr Patten has an obviously sincere determination to do all he can to secure the "way of life which makes Hong Kong such

an attractive community". He insists that he is simply trying to implement the 1984 declaration by putting constitutional flesh on the principle at its heart: Deng Xiaoping's pledge of "one country, two systems". He argues, rightly, that if he does not defend that principle now, nobody will believe British assurances that it will not wash its hands of Hong Kong in 1997. He has invited Peking to come up with ideas acceptable to the majority in Hong Kong which wants more democracy, saying that his door is open for "rational dialogue" but that he does not accept that consultation is synonymous with giving China a veto.

Mr Patten has convinced the Hong Kong public that he really does put its interests first; hence his popularity and the relative calm with which the colony has greeted Peking's recent tirades. People in Hong Kong know how to judge these, and Peking's horror of democratic self-government is hardly news. Above all, they are the people at risk in 1997. Mr Patten has won backing for his proposals where it matters.

He should now press ahead with canvassing views in Hong Kong and incorporating the best into his legislation. That is the debate that counts, as he is the first ever governor to understand. China will do its best to make trouble in Hong Kong. All Mr Patten needs from Britain is continued steady support. Where Hong Kong is concerned, the old China hands have not exactly covered Britain in glory. They could usefully refrain from carping in the wings.

Call for UN haven in Yugoslavia

From the Secretary-General of Médecins Sans Frontières

Sir, Having allowed the conflict in the former Yugoslavia to grow to incredible proportions, the European Community cannot now refuse to take in those whose lives are threatened.

From the beginning of the crisis, Europe has taken an exclusively "humanitarian" approach that has served to mask the inability of our political leaders to take even the smallest initiative to discourage the aggressors. As you imply in your leading article today, humanitarian operations in the former Yugoslavia will increasingly appear as cosmetic posturing unless the aggression is stopped.

The genuine fear of seeming to support "ethnic cleansing" has served as yet another pretext for keeping the doors closed on refugees. Terrified by the prospect of a mass immigration, every country in Europe has an excuse for containing refugees within the borders of the former Yugoslavia.

In the medium term, the United Nations could set up a "haven" for the civilian population in Bosnia, similar to the one established for the Kurds in Iraq. The Bosnian tragedy provides striking similarities with Nazi Germany: Europe must immediately offer at least temporary asylum to the most vulnerable. If it is not to renounce the values which underlie its civilisation.

Yours sincerely,
ALAIN DESTEXHE,
Secretary-General,
Médecins Sans Frontières,
Boulevard Leopold II 209,
1080 Brussels.
November 18.

Refugees blocked

From the Director of Alert

Sir, This organisation welcomes measures to control the random intake of refugees, as this should provide safeguards against organisations plucking people from the camps and transporting them to the UK without having adequate arrangements for their care here. Unfortunately, we have inadvertently been caught up in a battle with the Home Office over regulations that were introduced to discourage agencies who do not operate according to the same rules.

The week prior to the introduction of the new regulations, we were moving refugees who had been selected by the Red Cross and ourselves towards the Slovenian border. Accommodation and carers were waiting for them in centres all over Britain, with the approval of the local authorities concerned, and we had informed the refugees that that effect, so these people were in transit when the measures were introduced.

At no time did the Home Office or any other government department tell us not to go. If they had, we would have taken their advice, although it would have been virtually impossible to have alerted the refugees who were moving towards the Austrian/Slovenian border.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BEESLEY,
Director, Alert,
Springfield, Scotland Lane,
Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire,
November 18.

Doctor's ordeal

From Mr Nigel H. Harris

Sir, Now that Dr Nigel Cox has endured the stress of two trials — a criminal one, and the professional conduct committee deliberation of the General Medical Council (report, November 18) — it would seem reasonable and in accordance with natural justice that he should be allowed to continue his professional career.

How disappointing it is therefore to note that the Wexham Regional Health Authority (his pompous employer) should consider it necessary to put him through a third ordeal to decide if his employment will continue.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL HARRIS
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
72 Harley Street, W1.

New book on Scrolls

From Professor Geza Vermes, FBA

Sir, May I correct two factual errors in Matthew d'Ancona's report (November 17) on the publication of *The Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered*.

1. I have never said that the unpublished Scrolls are "as interesting as an old mop". These fragments are significant and I welcome their publication. They are, however, in no way revolutionary but, in my own words, "as explosive as a wet mop".
2. The Forum for Qumran Research, of which I am the Director, is not run under the aegis of Oxford University but under that of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies.

Yours sincerely,
GEZA VERMES,
West Wood Cottage, Foxcombe Lane,
Boars Hill, Oxford.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Vatican and issue of women priests

From Lord St John of Fawsley, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Sir, I can hardly be the only English Roman Catholic dismayed by the reaction of my Church to the crisis within the Church of England over women priests. The Vatican's current response, slapping the development down with no trace of charitable understanding, is hardly in accord with the ecumenical spirit. Nearer to home, the ecclesiastical statements that everything will go on in the ecumenical dialogue as before are vapid.

The agony of Catholics within the Church of England can only be experienced by meeting it at a personal level, as I have done in conversation with clergy here at Cambridge and elsewhere. The crux of the issue lies not so much in the ordination of women priests in itself — I have found in Anglicans and Roman Catholics a surprising degree of agnosticism — but in the manner in which the action was taken.

The claim of Catholics within the Church of England is that their Church is part of the Universal Church. In view of the unilateral action of the Synod this position is virtually impossible to sustain and present-day Anglicans find themselves in the same position as Newman in the last century. Those going through these difficulties are surely entitled to a more sympathetic and constructive response from Roman Catholics than they have so far received.

One possible solution to the difficulties is a corporate reunion of Anglican Catholics with the Roman Catholic Church. No reasonable person could expect such a reunion to take the form of a simple submission to Rome with its authoritarian defects and lack of pluralism.

The best solution would be for reunion to take unite form with the reunited Anglicans retaining their own liturgy, a married clergy and certain jurisdictional freedoms. The Roman Catholic Church in England would face a demand on its generosity for financial assistance on a scale never hitherto encountered and for which the Converts Aid Society is an inappropriate and inadequate vehicle. Should such a reunion take place it would not only be of benefit to Anglicans but to Roman Catholics as well. In all true ecumenism there are no losers, only gainers. Anglicans would acquire the keys of authority and Roman Catholics would be enriched by the gift of liberty, openness and free enquiry which is Anglicanism's particular charism.

School tests

From Mr A. C. Sim

Sir, Baroness Blatch, the education minister, says (report, November 18): "I would say to those critics of testing: 'What are they afraid of?'"

One of the fears is well displayed by your sample science test for seven-year-olds. The children are asked to mark drawings with a tick or cross if they are or are not attracted by a magnet. There is no provision for qualified answers.

Amongst the drawings are a spoon, a drawing pin, a nail and a paper clip. In this house spoons used in jam are silver and merit a cross; there are also some stainless steel spoons that merit a tick.

The drawing pins in my study are brass — a cross; but many drawing pins are plated steel — a tick. I have a box of small nails some of which are brass and some steel. I also have some paper clips (as drawn) that are plastic and some that are steel.

Any worries I might have had about testing are now greatly enlarged.

Yours sincerely,
A. C. SIM (retired examiner),
Twydals Cottage,
Duck End, Stebbing, Essex,
November 18.

Radiation at Sellafield

From Dr David Sumner

Sir, HM Inspectorate of Pollution is being either naïve or disingenuous in stating that the "overall impact" on people living near Sellafield will decrease when Thorp (the thermal oxide reprocessing plant) opens (report, November 17). Its estimates of current annual doses seem based on what the doses would be if discharges were at their present authorised limits.

Under the new authorisation, the actual discharges are expected to be a much higher percentage of the authorised limits (75 per cent as compared with about 20 per cent at present), resulting in an increased dose to

I offer this solution not in any spirit of triumphalism but in one of humble service to a church which bears the marks of the presence of the Holy Spirit: through its holiness, its respect for the word and tradition and its sacramental life.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY,
Emmanuel College, Cambridge,
November 18.

From Mr J. J. O'Brien

Sir, The decision of Synod revealed the irreconcilable division between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches on matters of theology, scripture, tradition and the apostolic succession.

Now we Catholics can regain our liturgy, spirituality and sacramental theology, so much of which has been threatened as our leaders sincerely sought the prize of unity — now placed beyond reach by Synod.

I hope that Mr Breen (letter, November 14) will stay with us and not join "the tide of church-leaving". If not, we shall have the consolation of welcoming home so many of our Anglican brethren who now will surely wish to join us.

We believe that Jesus Christ (not Synod) calls those whom He chooses for the ordained priesthood, just as He once called the apostles.

Yours faithfully,
J. J. O'BRIEN,
6 Willow Drive, Handforth,
Wilmslow, Cheshire,
November 18.

From Captain F. V. Harrison, RN (ret)

Sir, Do we still belong to one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church — or must we amend the Creed?

Yours faithfully,
F. HARRISON,
26 Kennington Palace Court,
Sancroft Street, SE11.

From Mr T. Piney

Sir, As you pointed out in a leading article on October 30, "The priestly vocation", the Roman Catholic Church does not recognise the validity of Anglican Orders *per se*. The addition of non-validly ordained women should not make any difference to ecumenism.

Yours faithfully,
T. PINEY,
11 Shiring Mansions,
12 Canfield Gardens, NW6,
November 16.

From Mr John Brace

Sir, As I believe, a reasonably intelligent adult, I was initially baffled by the first of the three samples of the new tests, involving a calculator.

I passed it round the office. Out of two senior accountants, a studio manager, an assistant account executive, an office manager, two computer systems analysts and a young secretary, spanning the age range 23 to 55, only one (a systems analyst) was able to understand the question. I know no seven-year-old to try it on.

Incidentally, what are seven-year-olds doing with calculators before most of them can manage basic arithmetic?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRACE,
John Brace and Associates
(Marketing Communications),
11 Imperial Road, SW6.

From Mr P. M. Fenwick Elliott

Sir, Nine out of ten of the staff in my office were unable to solve the "calculator" test. The one who succeeded was immediately accused of having the mind of a seven-year-old.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP M. FENWICK ELLIOTT,
20 Hanover Square, W1.

critical groups around Sellafield.

Moreover, if we include doses incurred from radionuclides already in the environment (as we surely must), the total dose is very close to, if not above, 300 microsieverts, a level considered by the National Radiological Protection Board to represent the maximum acceptable risk.

An authorisation to discharge cannot be allowed to proceed on this basis.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SUMNER,
University of Glasgow,
Department of Medicine
& Therapeutics,
Gardiner Institute,
Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

English Heritage plans

From Mr Malcolm Crowder and Lady Weir

Sir, We endorse all Dame Jennifer Jenkins says (letter, November 11) about English Heritage's plans for "Managing England's Heritage". Our particular concern is the proposal to focus resources on Grade I and II* buildings and to confine grants for other historic buildings to those "in areas which combine townscape quality with financial material and social need".

As the Chief Executive, Jennifer Page, emphasised when launching English Heritage's "Buildings at Risk" survey (report, January 23), by

far the majority of buildings which constitute the historic heritage are listed Grade II. The survey revealed thousands to be at risk. By no means all of these are in areas which would qualify for grant.

We therefore urge English Heritage, when targeting its resources, to ensure that at the very least there is no reduction in the already inadequate provision made to assist the repair and restoration of Grade II buildings.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM D. CROWDER
(Chairman, UK Association of Preservation Trusts),
HILARY WEIR (Secretary),
The Architectural Heritage Fund,
27 John Adam Street, WC2.

Peking's pressure on Hong Kong

From Mr John Walden

Sir, If the Hong Kong political reforms mooted by Chris Patten (report, October 8) were to be implemented, the consequences would be as innocuous and unobjectionable as the Peking government's opposition to them (reports, November 17, 18, 19) is unreasonable and irrational. All the reforms do is slightly to enhance the potential of the 1995 legislature to perform its constitutional duty to hold the territory's non-elected executive accountable and discourage it from exercising its absolute powers in an arbitrary way.

A further advantage will be to give the Hong Kong legislature as a whole a more credible mandate to represent and speak for the people of Hong Kong and so demonstrate that the territory is governed by democratic institutions and the rule of law.

These modest measures will not usurp the powers of the Hong Kong government. Nor do they seek to abrogate the powers vested in the future government by the Basic Law approved by the National People's Congress in 1990. But they will, as indeed they should, serve to help check the conduct of the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region after 1997 if left in place by China when it assumes sovereignty.

For better or for worse that government is to be executive-led, its senior officials selected and appointed by the Peking government, and it will be vested with a monopoly of power to make policies for the region and to implement them.

All this is decreed by the Basic Law. But it is not the form of government that the British Parliament and the Hong Kong legislature of 1984 were led by the Thatcher government to believe would be put in place by 1997.

According to the white paper laid before Parliament in November 1984 the system of government that was to be developed would have its authority firmly rooted in Hong Kong, would be able to represent authoritatively the views of the people of Hong Kong and would be more directly accountable to them.

To achieve these ends the then legislative and executive councillors regarded it as essential "to transfer the powers of the colonial government to the elected representatives of the people of Hong Kong" and some form of ministerial system was expected to follow.

Since the Sino-British joint declaration was ratified in May 1985 action to implement the political objectives of the 1984 White Paper has been deliberately delayed by the Hong Kong government, in response to pressures brought to bear upon the British government by China.

Now that China has successfully suppressed the development of democratic government in Hong Kong and ensured the continuation beyond 1997 of colonial-style authoritarian rule, but under Chinese suzerainty, Mr Denis Healey's view, in the debate on the Hong Kong Bill in the House of Commons on January 21, 1985, that making Hong Kong's bureaucracy accountable was always more important than introducing Westminster-style parliamentary democracy, has acquired the virtue of necessity.

Yet even this safeguard against abuse of power by the future Peking-appointed executive of the government of the territory, and it is one that is required under the Sino-British joint declaration, will be denied to the people of Hong Kong if the Peking government's campaign to make Mr Patten abandon his constitutional package is successful.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WALDEN
(Director of Home Affairs,
Hong Kong government, 1976-81)
Hong Kong University,
Centre of Asian Studies,
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong,
November 19.

Sitting pretty?

From Mr C. J. Reddall

Sir, With an endless and locally renewable source, is not old flannel the only choice to fill the Woolscall (letters, November 16, 17, 18)?

Yours sincerely,
C. J. REDDALL,
Keepers Cottage, Pallingham Quay,
Widborough Green, Sussex.

From Mr Peter J. Beer

Sir, For comfort, weave invisible exports into the fabric.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. BEER,
2 Hill Cottages, Reepham, Norfolk.

All over the place

From Mr Richard Lewis

Sir, Amongst the nominations for high sheriff (details, November 13), I note that included was a Hastings in Cambridgeshire, an Arran in Devon, an Aylesbury in West Glamorgan, and to add probable insult to injury, an English in Powys. Does this constitute a multiple conflict of interest or is it just an example of inter-county tolerance of outsiders?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
RICHARD LEWIS,
Town Farm, 45 High Street,
Cheddington, Bedfordshire.

مكتبة الأصيل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 19: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Sir Geoffrey de Deney was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Clerk of the Privy Council.

November 19: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening gave a Reception for the Diary Committee at Buckingham Palace.

November 19: The Princess Royal, President, International Equestrian Federation, arrived this afternoon at Royal Air Force Lyneham from Italy.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this morning at a Service in Westminster Abbey for the Westminster Hospital and the Westminster Children's Hospital.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 19: The Prince of Wales this morning attended the Department of the Environment/European Commission Conference on European Business and the Environment - The Future - at the European Commission, Brussels.

His Royal Highness subsequently attended a Meeting with the Directors General and Officials of the Environment and Agriculture Directorates.

Afterwards the Prince of Wales attended a Luncheon given by the President of the Commission of the European Communities (Monsieur Jacques Delors).

His Royal Highness later visited the Luyten/Coates Exhibition organised by the British Council and the Foundation of Architecture.

Finally, The Prince of Wales visited the Rue de Laeken reconstruction project, and met

Architects and others involved with the project.

Commander Richard Aylard was in attendance.

November 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, Pottery and Glass Trades Benevolent Institution, was present this evening at a Reception given by the Institution at the Clarendon Hall.

The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 19: The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal United Services Institute, today received Captain David Bolton, RAF (Retired), Director of the Institute.

The Duke of Kent, President of the Football Association, this evening presented the Torch Trophy Awards at Simpsons (Piccadilly) Limited, London W1.

Commander Roger Walker, RN was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened Glenside Court for the elderly before going on to open the West Suffolk Hospital's New Kitchen and Dining Room.

Her Royal Highness later attended a Luncheon for the Suffolk Association of Youth at Thornham Magna, Suffolk.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
November 19: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited the Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes at Grayshott and Liss and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrate the 45th anniversary of their marriage today.

the bureau's new premises at 45 George Street, Paisley, Renfrew, at 10.30, and as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Greenock, Gateside, Greenock, at 11.40.

Princess Margaret, as Patron of Tenopus and Tenopus-Scotland, will open the magnetic resonance imager suite at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary at 2.30, and as President of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will attend the Touch of Tartan Ball at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, at 7.45 in aid of the society.

The Duchess of Kent will present the prize certificates to the winners of the Tree Council's Royal Anniversary Trees schools competition, at 35 Belgrave Square at 11.45.

Westminster Hospitals

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attended a service held yesterday in Westminster Abbey to mark the past and to affirm the future work of Westminster Hospital and Westminster Children's Hospital. The Dean of Westminster officiated, assisted by the Rev Paul Ferguson, precentor, and the Rev Bernard Hughes, chaplain to the hospitals. Miss Jane Powell, a staff nurse at the Westminster Children's Hospital, and Dr Peter Emerson, consultant physician emeritus, Westminster Hospital, read the lessons. Mr Ian Donnachie, Chairman of Hospital Health read from Minnie Haskins's *Gate of the Year*. The Dean gave an address. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health attended.

School news
St Aubrey's (Preparatory) School, Woodford Green
The Governors of St Aubrey's (Preparatory) School, Woodford Green, announce the appointment of Mr Gordon James, MA, 39, currently Second Master and Director of Studies, Bedford Preparatory School, as Headmaster from September 1993 to succeed Mr Harold Coley, who is retiring after 42 years at the school, initially as Assistant Master, then in partnership with his father, the late Lieutenant-Colonel W.H. Coley, and for the last 26 years as Headmaster.

Sir Leon Bagrit Centre
The Fourth Bagrit Evening was held on Thursday, November 19, 1992, at the Sir Leon Bagrit Centre, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. The Lecture "Breathing Babies and the Bagrit" was given by Dr Simon Bignall, Consultant Paediatrician, St Mary's Hospital, Director of the Centre, who was followed by dinner in the atrium.

Among those present were: Sir Matthew and Lady Parry, Lady Lister, Mr and Mrs D.W.C. Smith and Mrs W.E. Duckworth and Dr Richard Horton, Assistant Editor *The Lancet*.

Memorial services
Mr Michael Mortimer Wheeler A memorial service for Mr Michael Mortimer Wheeler was held yesterday in Lincoln's Inn Chapel. The Rev Felix V.A. Brown, OBE, read the lesson and Sir Christopher Slade gave an address.

Mr Henry John Marsh A memorial service for Mr Henry John Marsh was held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Rev John Priddy, OBE, read the lesson and Mrs Rachel Reid, daughters, and Mr Matthew Marsh and Mr Jon Marsh, sons, read from their father's works. Mr Harold Payne, representing the Far East Prisoners of War Association, and Sir Peter Parker gave addresses.

Forthcoming marriages

M.J.M. Bonifacio and Miss A.C. Zappale
The engagement is announced between Jean-Marie, son of M and Mme J. Bonifacio, of Barbizon, France, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Chapple, of Islay, Oxford.

Mr J.J. Brown and Miss V.J. Montague
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Brown, of Dunstons, Lock, Wiltshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E. Montague, of Ringfield, Suffolk.

Mr R.L. Dean and Miss J.S. Robson
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs F.L. Dean, of Glen Uss, Caerleon, Gwent, and Janet, widow of William Robson, of Litch Old Rectory, Midhurst, West Sussex.

Mr S.R. Hazell and Miss E.A. Darvall
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Hazell, of Mayfield, Sussex, and Alexandra, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Darvall, of Crowborough, Sussex.

Mr A.D. Correll and Miss J.C. Harrison
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Lee, of Great Cornwell, Oxfordshire, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Harrison, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr T.W.J. Turnbull and Miss E.L. Conrad
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs G.A.T. Turnbull, of Cobham, Surrey, and Emma-Jane, daughter of Mr T. Connolly, and the late Mrs Giles Conrad, of the Isle of Wight.

Marriage

Mr A.J. Hunter and Miss S. Reed
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Receptions

The Magistrates' Association Chairman of Council, Mrs Joyce Rose, held a reception on Thursday, November 19, at the Association's headquarters at 28 Fitzroy Square, London, W1.

Among those present were: Lord Justice Taylor, Mr Justice Bristow, Mr Justice Goff, Mr Justice Hoffmann, Mr Justice Nourse, Mr Justice Phillips, Mr Justice Rix, Mr Justice Sullivan, Mr Justice Toulson, Mr Justice Waller, Mr Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Young, Mr Justice Zuckerman, Mr Justice Ladd, Mr Justice Alderson, Mr Justice Belderrig, Mr Justice Clarke, Mr Justice Finkelstein, Mr Justice Gage, Mr Justice Gibson, Mr Justice Harman, Mr Justice Hirst, Mr Justice Jacob, Mr Justice Joffe, Mr Justice Kitchin, Mr Justice Langford, Mr Justice Levens, Mr Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice MacNeill, Mr Justice Macpherson, Mr Justice Mann, Mr Justice May, Mr Justice Mummery, Mr Justice Neill, Mr Justice Nourse, Mr Justice Phillips, Mr Justice Rix, Mr Justice Sullivan, Mr Justice Toulson, Mr Justice Waller, Mr Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Young, Mr Justice Zuckerman, Mr Justice Ladd, Mr Justice Alderson, Mr Justice Belderrig, Mr Justice Clarke, Mr Justice Finkelstein, Mr Justice Gage, Mr Justice Gibson, Mr 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NEWS

British Rail's black day for jobs

■ The axe fell on nearly 10,000 workers as more firms buckled under the recession. British Rail stunned its workforce with an announcement that it is to shed 5,000 jobs within four months.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is to cut 3,500 staff over the next five years, the finance house Lombard North Central is shedding 400 and Eagle Star insurers are cutting 200 staff. Blue Circle, Britain's biggest cement maker, plans to cut 550 jobs by the middle of next year. Page 1

Hillsborough victim allowed to die

■ An historic High Court ruling that doctors could disconnect the feeding tube keeping Tony Bland, a Hillsborough victim, alive was greeted with overwhelming relief by the parents. Pages 1, 3

Report defended

John Major dismissed charges that publication of the first school examination league tables had been "botched" by the government, as Labour demanded the withdrawal of the results. More than 30 schools have complained about inaccuracies in their published results and one is threatening to sue. Page 2

Irish confidence

Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, whose popularity has plummeted since the general election campaign opened two weeks ago, claimed yesterday that the tide is turning in his favour. He pointed to the latest opinion poll as evidence that his party, Fianna Fáil, which had also heavily lost support, has turned the corner. Page 8

Treasure find

Gold and silver objects found in a Suffolk field by a retired gardener with his metal detector have been described by archaeologists as one of the most spectacular Roman hoards uncovered. Among the treasures Eric Lawes, 69, found were two silver figurines of a human bust and a tigeress, silver containers, hand-forged silver spoons and decorated strainers, some with Latin words and the Chi Rho symbol inscribed on them. Pages 1, 9

Gatt hope

Top American and European Community negotiators entered a second day of talks in Washington, with both sides increas-

ingly hopeful of reaching an agreement on EC oilseed subsidies in the hope of averting a serious transatlantic trade war. But the French government denounced Britain and displayed its increasing desperation over a dilemma which President Mitterrand says is one of the toughest he has faced. Page 12

Nuclear doubt

The future of a £1.85 billion nuclear reprocessing plant may be called into question before it opens. Britain's third biggest building project, the Thorp plant at Sellafield, Cumbria, is at the centre of a growing argument over economic and environmental factors. Page 10

ANC compromise

In a highly significant move, the African National Congress has approved a document agreeing that power-sharing should be a part of its strategy and that provision should be made for servants and soldiers of the white regime in the form of pensions, generous redundancy payments and a general amnesty. Page 14

Airport defiance

Hong Kong launched the first key construction stage of its airport in spite of lack of full agreement with Peking on the £13.5 billion project. Colony officials emphasised that the decision to seek £820 million from the Legislative Council to fund the first land reclamation contract was not an attempt to go it alone on the project. Page 15

The West Side and inside story

West Side Story with its show-stopper song "Gee, Officer Krupke" is getting nightly applause in H.M. Prison, Wandsworth. The Jets and Sharks are convicts. They know a lot about falling foul of authority and when they launch into the opening sequence — brawls, tense expletives, a slashing knife — it is like a short fuse to a big explosion. Page 1



Book review: the Whitbread Award winners: (biography) Victoria Glendinning for *Trollope*; (children's novel) Gillian Cross for *The Great Elephant Chase*; (first novel) Jeff Torrington for *Swing Hammer Swing!*; (novel) Alasdair Gray for *Poor Things*; (poetry) Tony Harrison for *The Gaze of the Gorgon*. Page 8

BUSINESS

Sticking point: Industrial group Wassall, run by two former Hanson employees, launched a hostile £58.2 million takeover bid for Evode, whose best-known product is Evo-Stik. Page 23

No joke: Euro Disney has failed to match forecasts of a first year profit made when it floated on the stockmarket in October 1989. But shareholders are rewarded with a small dividend. Page 23

Markets: Figures confirming another quarter of recession failed to dent the pound yesterday. Its trade-weighted index closed up 0.3 at 78.4 after a rise from \$1.5240 to \$1.5325 and a slight fall from DM2.4219 to DM2.4155. Shares firmed a little, with the FT-SE 100 Index rising 2.2 points to close at 2706.2. Page 26

SPORT

Rugby union: Wales prepare for their international against Australia in Cardiff tomorrow with a new spring in their stride after wins over the world champions by Swansea and Llanelli. Gerald Davies acknowledges that progress has been made but sounds a warning against euphoria. Page 40

Travelling hopefully: Paul Gascoigne's performance in England's 4-0 win over Turkey on Wednesday has offered the promise of a swift and comfortable journey towards the World Cup finals. Page 44

Come on in: The deals are lovely: The scrapping of car tax has led to a glut of car bargains. Page 35

ENTERTAINMENT

Natural havens: At the Natural History Museum in London scientists are developing a computer system which may play a crucial role in helping to conserve plants and animals. Pages 36-39

CULTURE

Early Christmas: 41 computer workers at the Bank of England were made redundant but returned to their desks as employees of another company. Pages 37-39

The Royal Academy's Walter Richard Sickert exhibition: his late pictures, once dismissed as crude, can now be seen as the climax of the artist's career. Page 31

Benedict Nightingale reviews David Storey's new play *Stages* at the Cottesloe. Page 31

Robert Palmer sings big-band "standards" with the BBC Radio Orchestra at the Albert Hall, in a bold but not entirely successful career move. Page 32

Alan Ayckbourn contemplates a year as a visiting professor of contemporary theatre at Oxford University. Page 33

Harry Eyres welcomes the first part of the five-part series *The Big Battalions* (Channel 4). Page 33

Now read on: Christmas is coming — and the book token is celebrating its 60th birthday. Joseph Connolly looks at the history of the easiest present of them all. Page 16

The key to Angola: Sam Kiley reports on Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, founder and president of Unita. Page 16

Hit or Miss? With new owners, a new editor, and a whole new attitude, a feminist voice stands by the old radical values. Page 17

Hard lessons: After years of energetic public service, the buoyant Sir Clavis Moser, 70 next week, remains optimistic about the life of his adopted country. Page 17

A house, four cars and 34 holidays are among the winnings of Rita Smallburn who plays the supermarket competitions. Page 43

A live question

The High Court's ruling that Tony Bland should be allowed to die is both compassionate and correct. But it would be dangerous to see this case as setting any new ethical guidelines. Page 19

Corruption uncured

This week Mr de Klerk appeared reluctantly to accept that the rottenness [of South Africa] could extend to the very heart of his government. But... doubts must remain as to whether [his response] offers a cure or a cover-up. Page 19

Hong Kong's hope

All Mr. Patten needs... is continued steady support. Where Hong Kong is concerned, the old China hands have not exactly covered Britain in glory. Page 19

BEN MACINTYRE

Sideways are getting longer, purple is more prevalent, people in Nehru jackets are quoting Bob Dylan lyrics as if they meant something and love is in the air... in Bill Clinton's America a sticky wave of Sixties nostalgia is sweeping the nation. Page 18

GRAHAM LEONARD

The situation which has arisen in the Church of England will... bear very hard upon the orthodox laity. It would be of the greatest benefit to such people if they could make their communion in the Catholic Church. Page 18

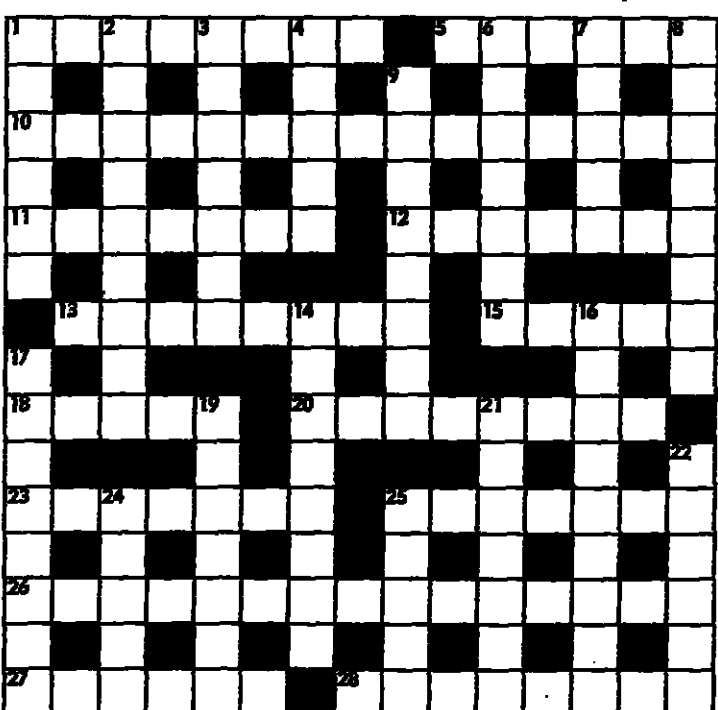
ALAN RYAN

In America, as in Britain, patients have a right to refuse treatment: they can, and are increasingly encouraged to, make "living wills" that detail what they want done, and more importantly what they don't want, if they are unable to decide for themselves. Page 18

Word Watching is with the concise crossword and the daily chess problem on. Page 44

A Federal Court adds injury to insult by ruling that Richard Nixon is entitled to payment for seized documents. — The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,081



- ACROSS
- Way of serving potatoes — just stuffed with game (8).
 - Shakespearean heroine — one Viola wronged (6).
 - Reportedly dangerous sea-area rumbled in a great storm (7,8).
 - Releases logs (7).
 - Basin split most of the drink (7).
 - Bishop Barnabae's wife a young woman? (8).
 - Name given to house set back in French city... (5).
 - no longer concerned with giving a name to No. 10, perhaps (5).
 - Scores agreed in drawn games (8).
 - Is this dog difficult to walk? (7).
 - Set down some sort of account (7).
- DOWN
- Go ashore and take the cover off a box, say (6).
 - Rocker can damage the rail (9).
 - Royal attendant's queer turn going by rail (7).
 - "He jests at" that never felt a wound" (R. and J.) (5).
 - I feel unwell climbing with boy in hook-up (7).
 - One who has no use for animals (5).
 - A fountain like this in the neighbourhood (8).
 - Fine material with medium fade (8).
 - Joined forces in Bury Post Office and left (8).
 - Big Eddy, of 10? (9).
 - Georgia with failure to show respect for Victorian brilliance (8).
 - Could this become the Near Eastern capital? (7).
 - Chignon of elite granny, possibly (7).
 - Nicked in pistol encounter (6).
 - Traveler's run accomplished (5).
 - Still lying so? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,080

PUZZLE NO 19,080
A O N A I W N N
R O T A T E D S E A L A N T
I W H D L I F I
S I V E D O R E F R U M P
G O C K A S O
S I O H K I A N P A P E D
T G H I N
R E D L E T T E R O R E S
I R E I S N
P E R C H A L B A T R O S
L E A L O R M U
I N D E N S E A M A T E U R
N A D A G Y N G
S A P E A F T E R S H A V E

Concise Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East of London	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wales, Gwent, Avon, Somerset	704
Derby, Leicestershire	705
Bedford, Hertfordshire	706
Northamptonshire	707
North Yorkshire, Cumbria	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Herefordshire	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire	712
Yorkshire & the Fens	713
North West England	714
North East England	715
South West England	716
South East England	717
Wales, Gwent, Avon, Somerset	718
Derby, Leicestershire	719
Bedford, Hertfordshire	720
Northamptonshire	721
North Yorkshire, Cumbria	722
West Midlands & Shropshire	723
Shropshire, Herefordshire	724
East Midlands	725
Lincolnshire	726
Yorkshire & the Fens	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M25	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
Wales, Gwent, Avon, Somerset	738
Derby, Leicestershire	739
Bedford, Hertfordshire	740
Northamptonshire	741
North Yorkshire, Cumbria	742
West Midlands & Shropshire	743
Shropshire, Herefordshire	744
East Midlands	745
Lincolnshire	746
Yorkshire & the Fens	747
North West England	748
North East England	749
South West England	750
South East England	751

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be showery today. Showers will be heaviest in the north and west, turning wintry on hills, and may be thundery later. Rain will spread eastwards across England and Wales, turning wintry in some northern parts. Clearer, showery weather will follow into west in the late afternoon and into remaining parts tonight. Outlook: rain spreading north-eastwards; drier and milder on Sunday, especially in east.

ABOVE

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	17	10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	15	10	100	0.1
Belfast	12	10	100	0.1
Birmingham	15	10	100	0.1
Cardiff	15	10	100	0.1
Manchester	15	10	100	0.1
Newcastle	15	10	100	0.1
Nottingham	15	10	100	0.1
Sheffield	15	10	100	0.1
Sunderland	15	10	100	0.1
Swansea	15	10	100	0.1
Torquay	15	10	100	0.1
Wrexham	15	10	100	0.1
York	15	10	100	0.1

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 9pm, 10C (50F), min 5pm to 8pm, 7C (45F). Humidity: 60% to 80%. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.08in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1014.0 mb. Wind: 1014.0 mb. Wind: 1014.0 mb.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 15C (59F). Lowest day temp: Aylesbury, Bucks, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: St Albans, Herts, 12C (54F). Lowest night temp: Aberdeen, 3C (37F).

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 9pm, 10C (50F), min 5pm to 8pm, 7C (45F). Humidity: 60% to 80%. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.08in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1014.0 mb. Wind: 1014.0 mb. Wind: 1014.0 mb.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 9pm, 10C (50F), min 5pm to 8pm, 7C (45F). Humidity: 60% to 80%. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.08in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1014.0 mb. Wind: 1014.0 mb. Wind: 1014.0 mb.

FORECAST

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	17	10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	15	10	100	0.1
Belfast	12	10	100	0.1
Birmingham	15	10	100	0.1
Cardiff	15	10	100	0.1
Manchester	15	10	100	0.1
Newcastle	15	10	100	0.1
Nottingham	15	10	100	0.1
Sheffield	15	10	100	0.1
Sunderland	15	10	100	0.1
Swansea	15	10	100	0.1
Torquay	15	10	100	0.1
Wrexham	15	10	100	0.1
York	15	10	100	0.1

TEMPERATURES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	17	10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	15	10	100	0.1
Belfast	12	10	100	0.1
Birmingham	15	10	100	0.1
Cardiff	15	10	100	0.1
Manchester	15	10	100	0.1
Newcastle	15	10	100	0.1
Nottingham	15	10	100	0.1
Sheffield	15	10	100	0.1
Sunderland	15	10	100	0.1
Swansea	15	10	100	0.1
Torquay	15	10	100	0.1
Wrexham	15	10	100	0.1
York	15	10	100	0.1

MOON

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	17	10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	15	10	100	0.1
Belfast	12	10	100	0.1
Birmingham	15	10	100	0.1
Cardiff	15	10	100	0.1
Manchester	15	10	100	0.1
Newcastle	15	10	100	0.1
Nottingham	15	10	100	0.1
Sheffield	15	10	100	0.1
Sunderland	15	10	100	0.1
Swansea	15	10	100	0.1
Torquay	15	10	100	0.1
Wrexham	15	10	100	0.1
York	15	10	100	0.1

NEW MOON

New moon November 24

MOON

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	17	10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	15	10	100	0.1
Belfast	12	10	100	0.1
Birmingham	15	10	100	0.1
Cardiff	15	10	100	0.1
Manchester	15	10	100	0.1
Newcastle	15	10	100	0.1
Nottingham	15	10	100	0.1
Sheffield	15	10	100	0.1
Sunderland	15	10	100	0.1
Swansea	15	10	100	0.1
Torquay	15	10	100	0.1
Wrexham	15	10	100	0.1
York	15	10	100	0.1

TIDE

Tide in miles: 100-2,000.

TIDE

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	17	10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	15	10	100	0.1
Belfast	12	10	100	0.1
Birmingham	15	10	100	0.1
Cardiff	15	10	100	0.1
Manchester	15	10	100	0.1
Newcastle	15	10	100	0.1
Nottingham	15	10	100	0.1
Sheffield	15	10	100	0.1
Sunderland	15	10	100	0.1
Swansea	15	10	100	0.1
Torquay	15	10	100	0.1
Wrexham	15	10	100	0.1
York	15	10	100	0.1

TIDE

Tide in miles: 100-2,000.

TIDE

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Sickert,
chronicler of
Victorian life

INFOTECH 36

Computers
and
conservation

SPORT 40-44

England's World
Cup hopes hinge
on Gascoigne

Motoring
on
Friday
Page 35

THE TIMES 2

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

PALE BLUE



IBM, "Big Blue", which once promised employees a job for life, has spent \$10 billion on redundancies and closures. Page 27

GAS PRESSURE

As the monopolies commission continues its enquiry into the gas market, profits at British Gas are being squeezed. Page 25

MORE STORES



After a series of disposals, Storehouse is back in profit and seeking to expand selling space. Page 25

TOMORROW



Carol Leonard discovers that Lord Stevens of Ludgate kneels beside his bed every night and clasps his hands to say his prayers. Page 25

Rate cuts yet to break grip of recession

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economy remained mired in recession in the turbulent three months to the end of September, according to the latest government figures, which suggest a further contraction in the current quarter.

The provisional estimate of gross domestic product (GDP), issued yesterday, showed no change between the second and third quarters, but a decline of 0.7 per cent against the third quarter of 1991. Since the onset of recession in the second quarter of 1990, GDP has fallen by 4 per cent. While clearly the longest recession since the Thirties, the current economic contraction is not as severe as the last recession in 1980-1.

In his Autumn Statement, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast a 1 per cent fall in GDP this year. The flat third quarter, and declines of 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively in the first and second quarters, imply that the final quarter would have to show another fall to meet Mr Lamont's prognosis. Treasury officials stressed, however, that they do not see the GDP data as a pointer to any renewed deterioration.

The economy and political turmoil of the third quarter badly dented consumer and corporate confidence. Any improvement in sentiment and activity in response to the three-point cut in base rates since the pound quit the exchange-rate mechanism in September, on Black Wednesday, has yet to show up in official data.

Although GDP was flat in the third quarter, the more closely measured measure of output, which excludes oil and gas, took a fresh downward lurch, falling 0.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter, after expanding 0.1 per cent in the second quarter. This left non-

Britain's gross domestic product was flat in the last quarter, but the non-oil measure fell 0.3 per cent, showing that the economy is still deep in recession

oil GDP 0.8 per cent below the same quarter last year.

The services sector, in its worst recession ever, shrank by 0.3 per cent in the third quarter, which left it 2.6 per cent below the peak it reached at the beginning of 1990. Manufacturing data, out last week, showed a fall of only 0.1 per cent in the third quarter.

The Bank of England, in its *Quarterly Bulletin* yesterday, said the deterioration in the third quarter largely accounted for sterling's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. It emphasised that economic prospects had been abruptly changed by the decision to float the pound and the subsequent sharp cut in interest rates.

The bulletin argued that the easing of monetary policy was fully consistent with the government's long-term target of stable prices. But the Bank said, perhaps for the first time in its postwar history, that attaining price stability too quickly could do more harm than good.

It said: "Had the UK remained in the ERM, it is quite possible that price stability would have been achieved during next year. Although clearly desirable in itself, price stability attained so quickly might have intensified the problems of domestic debt deflation. Some easing of policy was, therefore, desirable."

City economists, while expecting sharply lower interest rates and devalued sterling to accelerate recovery, still doubt an upturn this year. Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said: "The recession is still entrenched

and the fourth quarter is still likely to be negative."

Bank of England figures showed a surprise surge in bank and building society lending last month. But the £5.1 billion rise, after a £1.1 billion fall in September, failed to convince economists that a strong recovery in lending had started. The high October figure was attributed to a bounce-back after from the weak September figure and a shift to sterling lending after devaluation. The lending trend is still seen as down.

British Banking Association (BBA) data showed total sterling lending to the private sector rising by £3.2 billion in October, the biggest increase since February 1990.

Lord Inchyra, the BBA director-general, said, however: "Certainly manufacturers, in particular, borrowed quite heavily, but this was largely through acceptance credit, which is often associated with payment of corporation tax. Individuals, however, repaid a record amount of consumer credit, and mortgage demand remained weak." Consumer credit showed the largest repayment, £542 million, since the monthly BBA series was started in October 1986.

Broad money, M4, rose by a seasonally adjusted 1 per cent last month for an annual rise of 5.4 per cent, up from 5.1 per cent in September. The officially targeted narrow money measure, M0, rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent. This increased the annual growth rate to 2.4 per cent in October from 2.1 per cent in September.

Comment, page 27



Wielding the axe: George Mathewson, left, with Lord Younger of Prestwick, of The Royal Bank of Scotland

Royal Bank to shed 3,500 jobs

By NEIL BENNETT AND ROSS TIEMAN

TWO businesses hit by recession at either end of the industrial spectrum announced a total of 4,000 job losses yesterday.

Bad debt and low profitability has prompted a reorganisation over five years at The Royal Bank of Scotland during which 3,500 jobs, almost a quarter of the branch workforce, will be lost.

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement maker, is to shed a further 550 workers, after concluding that demand will continue to fall next year, and is unlikely to recover to 1989 levels before the end of the century.

The Royal Bank, where George Mathewson is chief executive and Lord Younger of Prestwick is chairman, plans to shed 1,000 next year and another 2,500 by 1997 in a

far-reaching reorganisation of its branch network, code-named Project Columbus. The bank, which has cut its workforce by 1,200 in the past 18 months, hopes that it can make most of the reductions through natural wastage, but admits there will be up to 300 redundancies a year. The bank's city centre branches in Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Manchester will be hardest hit.

The bank is announcing its full-year figures in two weeks. Analysts are expecting profits to fall to as little as £40 million, due to the continuing high rates of bad debt provisions.

Blue Circle is setting aside provisions of £58 million, covering write-downs on its property activities and some joint venture operations as well as the cost of redundancies. The

new outcrops at Blue Circle include 220 job losses at the company's Northfleet works in Kent. The rest will occur around the country, as Blue Circle closes 13 of its 23 distribution depots.

By the time the closures are complete, in the middle of next year, the company will have shed 1,100 workers, nearly a third of the total, from its cement manufacturing workforce.

The decision by Blue Circle to take out capacity shows just how gloomy the building materials industry has become about any prospect of a strong economic recovery.

Only five months ago, the building materials company held a £242 million rights issue to fund the acquisition of a French heating equipment supplier. Last night, analysts

were suggesting that Blue Circle would need the help of a £44 million profit on the recent disposal of a South African business to achieve year-end profits of £60 million to £70 million.

Blue Circle, which commands about half of the United Kingdom cement market, has already closed its Shoreham works in Sussex and Swanscombe works in Kent, reducing capacity by 600,000 tonnes.

Keith Orrell-Jones, who took over as group managing director at the start of last month, said he deeply regretted the job losses. However, the costs of the capacity cuts should be recovered within a year by more efficient use of the remaining plants.

Comment, page 27

C&W profits climb to £378m at halfway

By COLIN CAMPBELL

CABLE and Wireless, the international telecommunications group that owns Mercury, is heading for higher year-end profits and expects to benefit substantially from sterling's recent weakness.

Lord Young, chairman, said pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30 had risen from £351 million to £378 million, turnover was 11 per cent higher at £1.74 billion, and the interim dividend was being raised 12 per cent to 4.75p a share. He added that C&W had the strategy, plans, people and partnerships to take the group on a path of steady and sustainable earnings and dividend growth.

C&W shares rose 10p to 652p. A 1 cent change in average exchange rates has a £4 million impact on C&W pre-tax profits line. But for currency movements in the first half, trading profits that were 12 per cent up at £389 million would have been about £29 million higher than reported.

Tempus, page 24

Wassall targets Evode

By OUR CITY STAFF

WASSALL, the industrial group with interests in sealants and adhesives, yesterday launched a hostile £58.2 million takeover bid for Evode, the adhesives and industrial coatings concern.

Andrew Simon, Evode's chairman whose family links with the company stretch back to 1938, was told in a 7.30 am telephone call by Wassall that the takeover bid was being made at 80p a share.

Within hours, Evode replied that the bid, valuing Evode's ordinary shares at £58.2 million and the preference capital at £36 million, was unwelcome and unaccepted. Wassall yesterday bought a 3.5 per cent stake in Evode in the market.

Mr Simon, whose family and fellow board members own an estimated 10 per cent of Evode, vowed last night to fight Wassall "all the way".

Christopher Miller, chief executive of Wassall, said Evode's trading performance was lacklustre, that its balance sheet and cash flow had been



Miller better prospects

seriously weakened, and that its prospects would be significantly enhanced by Wassall's management. Mr Miller and Philip Turner worked for Hanson Group in the 1980s and, with David Roper, moved into Wassall in 1988. Since then, profits, earnings and dividends have risen consistently. The Hanson group has a 8.1 per cent direct stake in Wassall.

Wassall proposes to raise £103 million via a three-for-five rights issue at 150p a share to help fund the bid. The

issue will be in two parts, the second conditional on the success of its offer. The first rights instalment will raise £51 million, and the second instalment the balance.

Wassall yesterday forecast pre-tax profits for the year to end-December would not be less than £16.5 million (£10.3 million). It proposes to pay a final dividend of 1.7p (1.33p) a share, making 2.5p (2p) for the year.

Evode's 1991 pre-tax profits fell from £15.2 million to £7.3 million and the year's dividend was cut from 6.42p to 3.58p a share. In the six months ended March 28, pre-tax profits rose by 27 per cent to £3.8 million. The dividend was maintained at 1.78p a share. Results for the year that ended September, 1992, are due next month.

Mr Simon said that the benefits of earlier rationalisation and investments were poised to come through. Evode shares rose 19p to 91p. Wassall shares fell 15p to 183p.

Tempus, page 24

Euro Disney investors dream of fairy-tale payout

By GEORGE SIVELL
AND PHILIP ROBINSON

THE Magic Kingdom, heart of all Disney theme parks, was never meant to be a place to go looking for recession. But City analysts visiting a rain-soaked Paris for the first annual operating results from Euro Disney came away a little less happy than when they arrived.

A one-franc token dividend lightened the gloom, as did expected news that the Walt Disney parent company, which owns 49 per cent of the Paris operation, is deferring its management fee of 3 per cent of total revenue for the next two years. It would have been Fr113 million for the year just ended: the total for the

two years could be Fr300 million. But Euro Disney lost Fr168 million after tax in the year to September 30 and says that although it expects an improvement in the second half of next year, profitability for the entire year is unlikely.

Since the April 12 opening, Euro Disney has welcomed 6.8 million visitors and is setting up additional marketing initiatives to keep the visitors rolling in. John Forsgren, Euro Disney's chief financial officer, said the company planned to cut back the second phase of its theme park and resort complex.

But profits at Walt Disney, the American parent company, are booming on toys, cartoons and films, calming fears that Michael Eisner, the chairman and

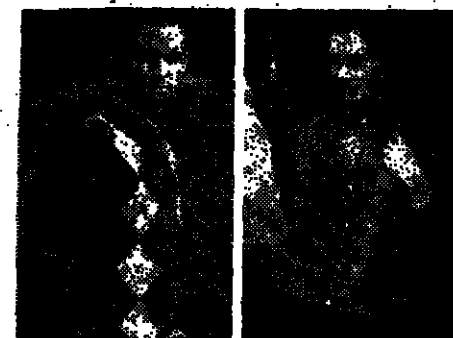
chief executive, could struggle to meet a 20 per cent growth forecast.

Fantasia, *Beauty and the Beast*, *101 Dalmatians* and *The Little Mermaid* have powered sales in films and consumer products. Whoopi Goldberg's *Sister Act* and the babysitter thriller, *The Hand That Rocks The Cradle*, were both blockbusters. Up to the end of September, Disney was ranked by *Variety* magazine as having the biggest share of American box office takings.

For the year to September 30, Disney's revenue rose 23 per cent to a record \$7.5 billion, with net income up 28 per cent to \$816 million.

Tempus, page 24

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US dollar
1.5325 (+0.0085)

German mark
2.4155 (-0.0064)

Exchange index
78.4 (+0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK

FT 30 share

2017.8 (+5.6)

FT-SE 100

2706.2 (+2.2)

New York Dow Jones

3212.77 (+5.40)*

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

16871.31 (+92.47)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%

3-month interbank: 7 1/4%

3-month electric bill: 6 1/4-6 1/2%

US: Prime Rate: 6%

Federal Funds: 2 1/4%

3-month Treasury bill: 9.14-9.19%

30-year bonds: 101-101 1/4

CUBA

London: New York:

£: \$1.5325

£: DM1.5790*

£: Sfr1.4335*

£: FF6.5400*

£: Yen123.50*

£: Index: 78.4

£: Index: 85.0

ECU: 00.810095

SOR: 00.911498

ECU1.234423

SOR1.097085

London Forex market close

Gold

London Fixing:

AM \$333.00 PM \$334.25

Coin \$334.10-\$34.00

\$217.60-\$218.30

New York:

Comex \$333.75-\$334.25*

Brent (Dec) \$19.35/bbl (\$19.05)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

BA facing action over Dan-Air and pay

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways yesterday faced a twin attack on its plans to develop a powerful scheduled network from Gatwick after its £1 takeover of Dan-Air.

Two rival airlines joined the Consumers Association in filing an application to the High Court asking for a full judicial review of the buy, which they claim breaches European competition laws.

At the same time, BA staff at Gatwick plan to hold a mass meeting to endorse calls for an indefinite strike in protest over pay cuts of up to 30 per cent, which more than 1,000 employees will have to accept if they are to remain with the new low-cost airline.

The Transport and General Workers Union, as well as the GMB, claimed their members had voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike.

BA said strike action would do "nothing for our negotiations, nothing for Gatwick and nothing for the travel plans of thousands of passengers".

British Midland, Virgin Atlantic and the Consumers Association are to request an expedited hearing in the High Court today, alleging that both the director-general of fair trading and Michael Heseltine, trade minister, failed in their duty by not insisting a full enquiry into the takeover as, they claim, is required by EC competition laws.

BA last night refused to comment on the move except to say the matter was in the hands of lawyers.

But Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive, said after the deal had been agreed: "There were no other interested buyers or investors inside or outside the airline industry. Dan-Air's world was being allowed to grind to a halt. It is therefore interesting to note that the level of complaint against our move appears to be in direct proportion to the amount of disinterest shown in saving Dan-Air routes, aircraft and people by those who attack us."

The group seeking the hearing claims its action is not directed at BA as such but is designed to "flush out" the government's attitude and policy towards competition in the aviation industry.

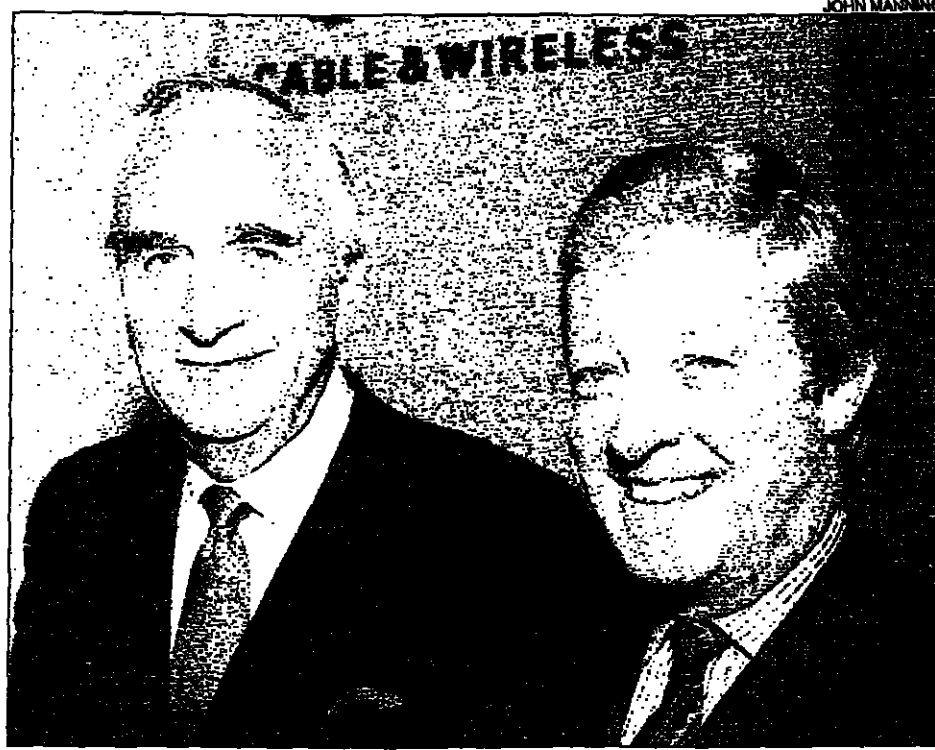
C&W investors, please hold on

CABLE and Wireless frankly admits its recent earnings record has not been covered in glory. But the group is making up lost ground with interim pre-tax profits in the six months to September that are 8 per cent ahead at £378 million, and with interim net earnings up from 17.3p to 18p a share. The advances are complemented by a 12 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 4.75p a share.

So far this year, most things are going C&W's way. The recent partnership with Canada's BCE telecommunications group is the start of a promising international relationship. The traffic between Hong Kong and China is increasing apace. Group margins have improved, and Lord Young of Graffham, chairman, and Rod Olsen, finance director, say the benefits of recently introduced financial disciplines will soon work their way through to the profits line.

C&W has a way to go before all its ratios sing, but profit is being generated more evenly as operations outside the Asia-Pacific region gather strength. Trading profits in Britain and Europe were 38 per cent higher at £97 million on a 23 per cent increase in turnover, and margins advanced from 13 to 15 per cent. The daily call volume at Mercury group rose from 6.4 million to 9.7 million.

C&W suffered a £106 million cash outflow in the first half, and the cash outflow in the second half could be £200 million. But C&W will not be



Ring the world: Lord Young, left, with Rod Olsen, of Cable and Wireless

diverted from fresh opportunities should they arise. Pre-tax profits could be between £810 million and £820 million (£643.5 million) in the year to next March, and challenge the £1 billion barrier in 1994. At 653p, up 9p, on 17.8 times prospective earnings, the shares remain a buy up to 680p.

Euro Disney

THE 40,000 British private shareholders in Euro Disney have suffered something of a

roller-coaster ride since the shares were issued in October 1989. The price has plummeted from a high of £16.57 just before the theme park opened in April.

Yesterday, the shares fell 40p to 860p, against an offer price of 707p, after Euro Disney reported Ffr188 million loss for the year to September 30, and said it expected a loss for the first six months of the current year. Euro Disney adds: "We expect significant improvement in the second half of the year."

However, we do not anticipate that we will achieve profitability for the entire year."

The parent Walt Disney Company has deferred its management fee of 3 per cent of total revenues for this year and next. Its eventual payment is concomitant on profitability at Euro Disney.

Shareholders, who get a one franc dividend, might just as well hold on for the next thrilling ride. Oddly enough, shareholders would have been no better off investing their money in Walt Disney Co.

which owns 49 per cent of Euro Disney, at the time of the offer. After huge overperformance at Euro Disney against Walt Disney, the two share prices are about in line if indexed back to the European flotation date.

A big Mickey Mouse smile is needed to break the pall of recession hanging over Paris.

Evode

IF EVODE hopes to retain its independence, it will have to come up with a strong and convincing case that Was-sall's 80p-a-share cash take-over bid is only superficially attractive.

It will also have to fight against the entrenched image that the bidder, founded as it was by ex-Hanson men, can run Evode more efficiently and with greater flair than current management does, and thus ensure that Evode's dividends are not threatened. It may be history, but Evode's 1991 pre-tax profit fell from £15.2 million to £7.3 million, and the year's dividend that was cut from 6.42p to 3.58p a share, and was not covered, coupled with market concern that profits recovery at Evode will take some years to materialise, is a seemingly weak footing from which to convince shareholders to stay aboard.

Yesterday was day one, and Evode's price at 91p, up 19p, suggests 80p will turn out to be just a sighting shot, and that a few more pennies will have to be put on the table. Stick around, for the moment.

Slump knocks 40% off Yorkshire Bank profit

RECESSION and a sharp rise in business failures in the North West cut 40 per cent off Yorkshire Bank's profits in the year to September 30. Pre-tax profits at the bank, which was bought by National Australia Bank in 1989, fell by £42 million to £64.6 million as bad debt provisions rose 76 per cent to £134 million. Despite the fall, the bank was forced to treble its dividend payments to NAB, to a record £85 million.

Yorkshire is expanding its network outside its home county and opened five more branches during the year in East Anglia and the West Country. Clydesdale, the Scottish bank and NAB's other main British subsidiary, suffered an 8 per cent fall in profit to £59 million. That was caused by an £8.4 million exceptional provision for restructuring costs. Bad debts rose by a third to £37.4 million but this was offset by a strong rise in operating profits to £105 million. The figures from the bank had a heavy impact on the figures at NAB, where profits fell 6 per cent to £675 million (£305 million).

Heath cuts dividend

A SLUMP in half-year profits has forced CE Heath, the insurance broker, to cut its interim dividend by a third to 5p. The final payout is likely to be 11p. Heath blamed the cut on adverse currency movements and lower interest rates. These cut half-year pre-tax profits by 28 per cent, to £8.9 million. Profits from broking fell by a quarter to £4.7 million, despite an 11 per cent rise in income to £51.2 million. Underwriting profits fell by £2.7 million to £4.2 million, the group having reduced its exposure to that business. There will be an extraordinary loss of £4.94 million from the flotation last June of Heath's Australian subsidiary. Profits of computer services fell by £400,000 to £1.7 million.

Cater Allen payout rises

CATER Allen, the discount house believed to be in bid negotiations with Union Discount, its rival, is increasing its interim dividend 1p to 7p. The firm, which does not have to report complete half-year figures until 1994 because of a loophole in company law, said its Lloyd's insurance subsidiaries had made a loss. This, however, was more than compensated for by rising profit from the main discount house, stock lending, and the banking subsidiary in Jersey. The financial futures business turned round to show a small profit. James Barclay, Cater's chairman, refused to confirm or deny suggestions that he was planning a bid for Union Discount, whose shares rose from 71p to 96p.

Hogg Robinson slips

HOGG Robinson, the travel, transport and financial services group, is increasing its interim dividend from 2.5p to 2.6p, despite a fall in profits from £10.85 million before tax to £10.08 million in the six months to September 30. Profits from transport rose from £2.11 million to £2.2 million and those from financial services from £2.2 million to £2.34 million. These increases were offset by a decline in travel profits from £5.5 million to £4.3 million and losses of £26,000 in computer services, which earned £24,000 last time.

Filofax celebrates

RETAILERS ordering Christmas stocks of Filofax products earlier than usual provided an unseasonal boost to the USM-quoted personal organiser and stationery group. The company, which was turned around by new management and a cash injection in 1990, unveiled a surge in pre-tax profits from £274,000 to £950,000 in the six months to end-September. An interim dividend of 0.5p (nil) a share is proposed. No tax was payable (£60,000), helping earnings jump to 4.3p (1.5p) a share.

Touche makes cash bid

TOUCHE Ross, the accountancy partnership, is taking the unusual step of making a cash offer for Praxis, the computer software house, to build up its information technology business. The agreed offer for Praxis, which is unquoted but has several institutional shareholders, values it at £6.5 million, including employee and management share options. Touche will put its own software engineering business into Praxis, which is based in Bath, and operate it under the Praxis name and management as part of its management consultancy.

Critchley to join market

CRITCHLEY Group, the electrical cable accessories maker, is joining the stock market via a £14.7 million placing, underwritten by SG Warburg Securities, of about 6.7 million ordinary shares at 220p each, capitalising the group at about £25.4 million. Dealings are expected to begin on Thursday. Critchley has subsidiaries in America, France and Australia, with overseas business accounting for about 36 per cent of sales. Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-September were £1.27 million, on turnover of £11.2 million.

Bond found not guilty of dishonesty at retrial

FROM REUTERS IN PERTH

ALAN Bond, the bankrupt Australian entrepreneur, was yesterday found not guilty of dishonesty at a retrial, three months after his original conviction was quashed and a fresh trial ordered.

A district court jury took two hours to deliver its verdict after the four-day trial. Mr Bond, 54, told reporters outside the court that the charge had never had any basis. Prosecutors had alleged that Bond, while lobbying Brian Coppin,

a businessman, for cash to rescue Rothwells, a merchant bank, concealed from him that Bond's then flagship company, Bond Corporation Holdings, would win a £516 million (£7.2 million) fee for the operation.

The former tycoon was sentenced to a 2½-year jail term after his first trial, in May, but the conviction was quashed in August on appeal. Mr Bond served three months of the sentence.

Building society lending rises

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies lent a little more in October than in September, with gross lending up from £1.8 billion to £2 billion. However, it was less than half the August total of £4.3 billion.

Net mortgage advances increased from last month's low of £446 million to £683 million. Net commitments increased from £1.8 billion to £2.2 billion.

Mark Boléat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The pick-up in both gross and net advances and net new com-

mitments last month, although very modest, occurred against the backdrop of considerable uncertainty in the financial markets and extinguished household confidence. The benefits of the cumulative 3 per cent reduction in UK base rates since late September, allied with the measure announced in the Autumn Statement to reduce the overhang of unsold properties by 20,000, will help to improve underlying sentiment towards the housing market over the coming months. Although seasonal factors will

inevitably obscure any positive developments over the winter period, the longer-term prospect is for some rebuilding in lending volumes and the level of transactions."

Societies had a savings inflow of £281 million in October, after an outflow of £264 million in September. This compares with an inflow of £529 million a year ago.

Mr Boléat said: "The positive inflow of savings into building society accounts in October marked a welcome turnaround from the September position."

British Gas plc. 1992 Third Quarter Results.

Chairman's Statement

"The results for the third quarter were at a similar level to last year.

Although UK Gas Supply benefited from slightly colder than normal weather, this was substantially

offset by the combined effect of lower selling prices in the tariff

market and a reduced share of the

firm contract market. Operating

profits in other business segments were little changed from last year."

Robert Evans
ROBERT EVANS CBE F ENG, CHAIRMAN, 10 NOVEMBER 1992

Copies of the 1992 Third Quarter Results are available from: British Gas plc,

Shareholder Enquiry Office, Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL.

Telephone 071 834 2000.

THE RESULTS AT A GLANCE

	3 months ended 30 September				9 months ended 30 September			
	Current cost	Historical cost	Current cost	Historical cost	Current cost	Historical cost	Current cost	Historical cost
	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991
Turnover	1 411	1 344	1 411	1 344	6 920	7 221	6 920	7 221
Profit/(loss) before taxation	(342)	(358)	(282)	(318)	436	798	833	986
Profit/(loss) attributable to shareholders	(250)	(250)	(190)	(210)	250	491	447	682
Earnings/(loss) per ordinary share	(5.8)p	(5.9)p	(4.4)p	(4.9)p	5.8p	11.5p	10.4p	18.0p

British Gas

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THE NETHERLANDS BUSINESS SCHOOL

British Gas profits slip as competitors dent market share

By Ross Tiesman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INCREASED competition in the industrial market and a cut in household gas prices caused a "disappointing" third quarter at British Gas, despite an early cold snap.

Pre-tax profits in the three months to end-September slipped 11.3 per cent to £282 million. Acknowledging his disappointment at the results, Cedric Brown, the chief executive, said: "What they demonstrate is that the squeeze on the company from the development of competition is continuing."

With the findings of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into the United Kingdom gas market not expected until July, British Gas has been forced to put most of its reorganisation plans on hold. Mr Brown said this had constrained its ability to achieve efficiency savings, although staff numbers had nonetheless been reduced by 1,500 this year, to 70,000.

British Gas is unable to respond to increased competition until it knows the outcome of a monopolies enquiry into the gas market, which is not expected until July

The volume of gas sales, in some areas, has shown a steep decline. Overall sales in the first nine months are down 8 per cent year-on-year.

During the latest quarter, sales in the tariff, or small business and domestic market, rose strongly. But the company had earlier been forced by regulators to cut prices by 5 per cent.

At the same time, rival suppliers continued to carve out larger shares of purchases by big industrial customers. British Gas's share of the firm contract market has shrunk to 58 per cent, down almost a quarter on the same period a year ago.

New moves to cut central costs are likely in January, when a consultant's report

into redeployment of 4,000 London head office staff should be complete.

But the growth of the business is increasingly concentrated in the exploration and production side. Mr Brown said work to increase exploitation of the company's oil and gas reserves on the United Kingdom continental shelf was making good progress.

Talks over developing huge reserves in Kazakhstan in the Confederation of Independent States are "making good progress". Under the proposed deal, British Gas and Agip will establish a 50-50 joint venture to invest \$6 billion over ten years to modernise and increase production there. A deal would double British Gas's reserves.



Broader outlook: David Dworkin, of Storehouse, who has earmarked 40 towns and cities for openings

Storehouse launches drive for expansion

STOREHOUSE, the BHS and Mothercare retail group, has emerged from its recent spate of disposals in search of expansion (Our City Staff writes).

David Dworkin, the chief executive, is seeking an expansion of selling space of between 3 and 5 per cent a year. The group has also earmarked

40 towns and cities for future store openings, although these will occur at the rate of three a year at best.

The results for the half year to October 10 still show the scars of the eighties expansion. Pre-tax profits reached £3.1 million, against a £13.9 million loss a year ago. But an effective £20.4 million has

been set aside to cover the sale of Habitat Europe, Richards and Conran's Habitat, leaving a bottom line loss of £2.7 million, against £21.8 million a year ago. A same again dividend of 2.5p a share will be paid out of earnings of 0.5p a share, which compare with losses of 2.3p a year ago. Mothercare and BHS swung

from operating losses of £9.9 million to profit of £12.2 million. Habitat remained in £3.9 million of losses before disposal against £7.5 million of losses a year ago.

Before one-off charges, Storehouse says that BHS and Mothercare have made £45.3 million in the past year. The shares rose 3p to 188p.

Shake-up of pension monitoring urged

By Sara McConnell

COMPANY pension schemes should be monitored by a single body "with clearly defined responsibilities" developed from an expanded and strengthened Occupational Pensions Board, the National Association of Pension Funds said yesterday.

In its response to the consultative document issued in September by Professor Roy Goode's Pension Law Review Committee, the association's working party also repeated its call for a compulsory risk-related compensation scheme to support the proposed single body.

That should be triggered when a company goes into liquidation and there is a shortfall in the fund.

In a reference to the Maxwell affair, Brian MacMahon, chairman, told the association's annual conference: "It is the responsibility of those involved in the provision of company pensions to ensure that never again should pensioners have to lobby Parliament because their company pension scheme has failed."

NatWest seeks to lift pollution cloud over banks

Bank's plan aims to protect lenders from paying for pollution, writes Neil Bennett



THE head of National Westminster Bank will today propose a six-point package to protect banks from the risk of paying for environmental clean-up operations, expected to cost billions of pounds.

Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, will unveil his proposals at the European Business and the Environment conference in Brussels. They are designed to ensure that banks can continue lending to chemical and engineering companies free from the danger that future legislation will force them to foot the pollution bill.

Banks are becoming increasingly worried about the risks of lending to potential polluters because of continuing uncertainty about European environmental legislation. Lenders are worried that future laws will order companies to carry out expensive decontamination work. If the company were unable to pay for this, its bankers could be forced to pay the bill, since they hold land and plant as security.

Mr Wanless admitted that NatWest was starting to refuse loans to potential polluters. "We have certainly walked away from some deals. We are always trying to assess risk and we find it very difficult in this area. We have a clear preference for becoming involved in businesses that are environmentally sound."

"It is bad enough to lend £100 and lose it. But imagine if we lose it and take on an unquantifiable environmental liability," he added. Mr Wanless accused the

Wanless: leading risk

European Commission and European environmental policy of departing from the basic principle that the polluter should pay. "In the event that the polluter cannot pay, then the liability should be treated as a social cost," he said.

His package of recommendations includes:

□ Liability for environmental damage should rest squarely on those who cause pollution.

□ Legislation should make clear that lenders can hold land as security on a loan without fear of facing environmental liability.

□ Companies that carry out their operations with due diligence should have a defence from paying for clean-up costs.

□ Borrowers and property sellers must have a duty to reveal any information about possible contamination.

□ Environmental liability should not be imposed retrospectively.

□ The EC should develop standards and training programmes for the assessment of potentially polluted sites.

Mr Wanless said the proposals would allow banks to finance companies to help them carry out clean-up operations. The existing proposals, by contrast, would frighten them away.

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(formerly "Leicester PLC")
(Incorporated in England Registered No. 1466600)
Introduction to the Official List by
COUNTY NATWEST

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13 for 4 Rights Issue

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£2,000,000	£2,085,855

Ordinary shares of 5p each

Leasing facilities relating to the Company are included in the Companies' Prospectus available from Rosspur PLC, 27-29 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF, 071 406 1000, 20 November 1992.

Copies of the listing particulars are available for collection at the following locations on 20 November and 21 November 1992 from the Companies' Prospectus Office at the London Stock Exchange, 27-29 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF, 071 406 1000, 20 November 1992.

10 November 1992

County NatWest Limited is a member of The National Westminster Bank group

مكتبة الأمل

Blue Circle wields the red pencil

Another rash of job losses does nothing to help rebuild the confidence needed to act as a fuse to detonate faster economic recovery. Among yesterday's announcements, however, one of the smaller was far more serious than the others. Blue Circle, the dominant cement manufacturer and a noted bellwether for a large part of the economy tied to construction, housing and investment, is to cut deeply into its permanent productive capacity. Its domestic cement capacity is to be cut by 15 per cent, albeit half of the axed capacity will be mothballed. The timing of the cut, which was much bigger than expected a couple of months ago, owes something to a generational change of senior management. More alarmingly, it stems from a study of the market that suggests that demand for cement will not return to its 1989 peak this century.

On the stock market, this savage realism was understandably greeted with approval. Assuming no pickup in the next five weeks, cement demand this year will be 30 per cent lower than in 1989. Blue Circle's own capacity usage was about 90 per cent that year, against full capacity output in 1988 before extra capacity became available elsewhere, including its own imports from Denmark. This year, Blue Circle has operated at about 70 per cent capacity, which should rise, after the cuts, to 80 per cent or more in 1993, without any fancy assumptions about the economy or the construction industry.

Like many basic industry groups, Blue Circle has been hanging on in the hope that the recession would soon end but can wait no longer. Like others, its projections appear to show that this has been more than a normal cyclical downturn and that demand will not bounce right back but resume growth from a drastically lower base. Such reasoning, spread across businesses large and small, is unfortunately self-fulfilling. Cuts in capacity will dampen recovery and effectively rule out anything approaching a boom in the next few years, since a sustained surge in demand would soon have to be met by imports or become inflationary. Industry's pressing financial need to come to grips with today's problems could make life harder in a few years' time.

Low tide

Meanwhile, back at what used to be the coalface, economic signals show the sort of churning that takes place at the change of the tide. Bank and building society lending sprang back in October from what may prove their nadir while both money measures expanded healthily. Special factors were at work in bank lending, since corporate borrowing in sterling rather than foreign currencies had suddenly become more attractive, but increased commitments by building societies ahead of the dead period of the year are encouraging.

There are no such glimmers of hope in the output figures for the third quarter, which fell 0.3 per cent, excluding oil and gas, before allowing for a likely further fall in construction. That compares with a 0.1 per cent rise in the second quarter, tending to confirm the fears of the financial markets that the economy was heading for a second dip before the Cabinet was forced, kicking and screaming, to devalue. The Treasury's forecast that the economy will have shrunk about 1 per cent by the end of the year implies some further fall in the final quarter, which seems realistic given the momentum. As this week's conflicting reports on retail sales suggested, statistics may not show what is really happening while people adapt to new fiscal and monetary policies. The Chancellor ought to do well to opt for a late final spring Budget. Only by the spring will it be apparent if business and consumers are responding to his new signals. If not, more will need to be done.

Many people believe the sum of IBM's parts is worth more than the whole. Philip Robinson looks at the possibility of the group being split up

For more than a generation, the workforce at IBM would sing the company song praising its founder TJ Watson whose blend of austere personality and super salesman laid the groundwork for creating the world's largest computer maker. He encouraged church-like behaviour, insisted that male staff wore dark suits and white shirts, banned smoking in the office during decades while smoking was fashionable, and plastered every wall from the boardroom to the toilet with the sign "THINK".

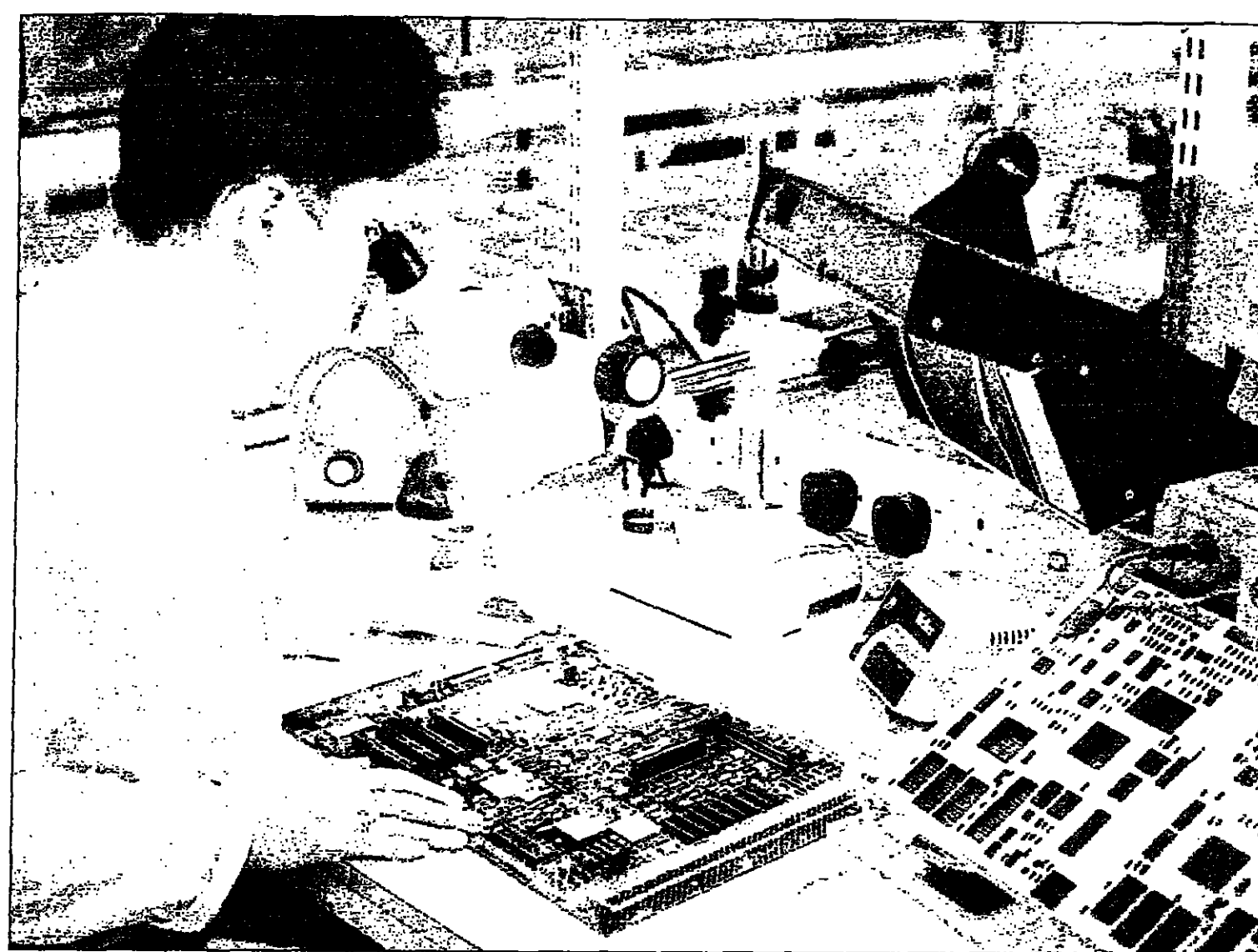
Five chief executives later, the empire that became known as Big Blue is turning pale. The company that promised employees a job for life is cutting staff at an unprecedented rate. The final tally for this year is expected within six weeks. So far, an estimated 40,000 jobs will have been axed around the world, but the final figure could be much higher. It is unclear how many of these will come from among the 20,000 IBM employees in Britain, its most important base outside America.

IBM's drastic surgery cost it \$10 billion to remove 60,000 from the payroll in the past two years and close factories. At the current rate, that works out at just over £100,000 a job. The numbers are already twice what had been expected by IBM management, but generous redundancy terms prompted staff to rush for the exits. The gravy train is drying up. Industry sources say IBM can no longer afford such payouts and if the latest round of job cuts is insufficient to bring costs down, the next will be much less attractive.

Personnel cuts are only part of what is worrying Wall Street. IBM shares have collapsed in the past two months to a point where there is now serious concern over the dividend. The apparent slow progress of John Akers, chairman and chief executive, to demonstrate the success of his master plan has prompted calls by shareholders for the company to be broken up — a move the US government tried for 13 years, but abandoned a decade ago.

The US justice department wanted dissection on anti-competitive grounds, claiming IBM's monopoly was too powerful. The shareholders' motives are much simpler: they believe the sum of IBM's parts is worth more than the whole.

Third-quarter losses ignited that call. They doused hopes that IBM's core business of mainframe computers was improving and that costs were coming down. It sent the shares into free fall. IBM's price has halved in the past two years and is down 37 per cent so far this year to a new year's low of \$63.125, a figure close to its book value and ranking it among the worst performing shares in the past



Circuit training: a member of staff at IBM's plant at Greenock, Scotland, studying part of a computer

12 years. Valued in the market at \$36 billion, it is twice the size of Hanson, two and a half times larger than Marks and Spencer and three times bigger than GEC.

Among the Fortune 500, it is ranked fourth largest on sales but 267th for its rate of return to shareholders. Their anger is rising. One West Coast money manager forecast the shares would rise between 10 and 20 per cent if Mr Akers resigned, and the United Shareholders' Association, a Washington ginge group, has tabled four challenges at IBM's meeting next April. They want the company to sell assets, split the chairman and chief executive jobs, create a committee of independent directors and tie pay to performance.

Ralph Whitworth, USA executive director, said: "IBM is in a critical condition, it's time for a second opinion." Daniel Benton, at Goldman Sachs, said it was difficult to see a reversal in IBM's fortunes as a huge company that is simply eroding.

Others have been cutting profit expectations for this year by between a third and a half. Dan Mandresh, of Merrill Lynch, an acknowledged optimist about the company, cut his forecast from \$4.5 billion to \$3.1 billion. John Jones, of Salomon Brothers, estimates \$2.3 billion this year and \$2.7 billion next. In July,

the consensus was for this year's profits to total almost \$5 billion.

Industry experts say IBM has been caught in a classic trap: sales of its highly profitable mainframe computers have been falling, it is fighting a cut-throat price war in the middle and personal computer markets and gross profit margins are falling faster than costs.

A government-sized bureaucracy that last year employed 350,000 people, IBM has been ill-equipped to keep pace with the recent rapidly changing demands of customers. Snapping up its market share have been smaller companies, such as Apple and Compaq, whose lean and nimble structures allow more flexibility for a sudden change of direction to follow the customer.

IBM is now aiming for a much smaller image. Mr Akers wants the company's 13 separate businesses to be concentrated into six main divisions. It has already consolidated its personal computer business into a \$7 billion company, the largest PC corporation in the world. But analysts say there has been slow progress elsewhere. Some have already produced their own plans, which divide IBM's operations into neat packages to be spun off immediately on the stock market. By one calculation, the

market valuation of five of IBM's non-mainframe businesses could total almost as much as the entire company. One estimate puts a \$38 billion value on the mainframe business alone and according to Adstar, the British business that makes storage devices, tape drives and software, is worth \$17.4 billion. Broken up, observers say IBM's market value could almost double to about \$70 billion.

One Chicago analyst estimates that a flotation of all 13 businesses would triple shareholder value. Mr Jones, of Salomon, said: "Next year will be the real test. The company's strategy is appropriate; now we will have to see how it is executed. Progress there is being partly obscured at the moment by the general economic problems, but we should have a clearer idea on whether IBM can be turned around by the end of next year."

"We got these shares as a hold and are telling clients that if they have a two-or-more-year time horizon they should buy them. We think it has enough cash flow to keep the dividend safe." For Mr Akers, time is running out. The ex-Yale man will be 58 three days after Christmas and, under IBM rules, retires in two years. He took charge in 1985, after spending most of this working life in the company, with the stated ambition to lift sales to \$100 billion before

he left. IBM's sales are \$64 billion and falling.

Robert Puffer, a director with The Gartner Group, the Connecticut industry watchdog, said: "IBM left it very late to bite the bullet. It wasn't until 1985 that they had any really serious competition and by then they had become complacent and very fat. But they have cut out a lot of dead weight. They're now in a transition phase and whether they recover quickly or slowly will depend to a large degree on the performance of the global economy."

The pace of IBM's entry into new fields with new products has picked up. In the past few months, it has announced a series of desktop and notebook computers at discount prices, which would have been unthinkable only five years ago.

Its recent track record is not that of a pioneer. It took 11 years to get into the mini-computer business, four years to enter the personal computer market (Apple led the field in 1977), five years to develop engineering work stations and p-compatable laptops and three years to develop the latest generation of work stations.

Recently, Mr Akers said: "We have all the habits that generated one of the most successful enterprises in business history. We also have the habits of a business that hasn't performed up to our expectations."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Crawford to cross border

THE new year will bring with it a move to London from Edinburgh for the Crawford family now that Rolly Crawford, 34, father-of-three, has resigned from County NatWest to join Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Crawford, who joined County from Life Association of Scotland, a small, local insurance company, seven years ago, and was taught almost everything he knows about the investment trust market by Hamish Buchanan, County's director of investment research, is joining BZW as head of its investment trust research division. "He has taught me a lot, too," counters the inimitable Buchanan amiably, "and we will be sorry to see him go, but he is young, keen and ambitious and he feels the time has come to flee the nest." Transferring to BZW with Crawford, who will remain with CNW until the end of the year, will be Donald Adamson, a consultant. Adamson will continue to operate from his Jersey home. Buchanan, who belongs to no less than five golf clubs, says they will not rush to fill the void created by Crawford's departure. "He only resigned on Tuesday and we want to make sure that we consider all the options."

Name of the game

A BIOGRAPHY entitled *The Real Armand Hammer* by Carl Blumay, about to be published by Simon and Schuster, contains a passage devoted to the many minor deals con-



"I say — that's a jolly nice perfume you have"

cluded by the controversial oil magnate. Some are witty and shrewd, one was pure whimsy. It seems that because of his name, many people thought he was Mr Arm and Hammer, as in the well-known baking soda in America. This irritated Hammer so much that he felt impelled to get his own company, Occidental, to buy a stake in Church & Dwight, which manufactures the soda product. It duly acquired 1.1 million shares in C&D, thereby allowing Hammer to say that he did make Arm and Hammer baking soda after all.

Starring role

ENSKILDA Banken, the Swedish bank, sponsored the Barbican's production of *Peer Gynt* by Norwegian composer Grieg on Wednesday, but few in the audience will have realised that it supplied one of the star soloists, too. Roger Gifford, head of Enskilda's

London branch, was singled out from the rest of the Tallis Chamber Choir, of which he is a regular member, to perform a solo. He shared centre stage with Simon Callow, the actor who was the narrator. Gifford's appearance was, of course, based purely on merit and had nothing to do with Enskilda being the sponsor. "The conductor didn't even know who I was," Gifford says. Gifford, 37, has, in fact, extensive singing experience. He was a chorboy at St Andrews, sang at Trinity College, Oxford, and has also sung at St John's, Smith Square. Despite this, and a well received performance, the vast Barbican auditorium seems to have made Gifford nervous. "It's a very odd sensation having thousands of ordinary, calm people staring at your socks," Gifford explains.

Empire spirit

ONCE you have held the reins of power, it is hard to let go. Lord Young of Giffordham, not that long out of active government service, and now chairman of Cable and Wireless, was waxing on at yesterday's interim results conference about Cable and Wireless's global ambitions. The group's full interim report illustrates his spirit of empire. Cable and Wireless writes about various international operations in the following manner (sic) — "Elsewhere in the region Macau (51 per cent owned) ... Yemen (65 per cent owned), Jamaica (79 per cent owned)." Perhaps someone should inform the outposts.

CAROL LEONARD

Clash of opinions on proposed buy-back of Amstrad

From Mr Alan Sugar

Sir, I refer to Mr Lakmaker's letter in Wednesday's business section. He scolds me for being condescending and warns me against treating shareholders like idiots. Having ticked me off, he then reinforces my point by blithely stating that I am offering shareholders 30p for shares which he claims have a net asset value of 69p. Wrong. The net asset value is 46.3p a share.

I do not consider shareholders idiots. But what do you call a person who writes a letter stating the asset value is 69p when it is clearly written in the annual report, in all documents to shareholders and has been commented on in numerous press comments at 46.3p?

You call him untechnical, uninformed, unqualified, misguided, misunderstood, confused; or is it simply, as I have previously stated, the fact that this transaction is a very complicated matter and, respectfully, in many cases, is beyond the comprehension of individual shareholders?

It is exactly this degree of carelessness that leads to

shareholders' confusion. May I please ask shareholders once again to read the offer document carefully and if they do not understand it, seek advice from somebody who does before lashing out with unqualified statements.

As an aside, it is interesting to note, perhaps, that the market valued the company, on the day that my offer was announced, at a mere 23.5p a share.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN M. SUGAR, Chairman, Amstrad Plc, Brentwood House, 169 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex.

From Ms Frances Leckie

Sir, I am writing to you as a small shareholder in Amstrad, holding just 10,000 shares, and having today received notification from my broker of the proposal that the company be taken private by its chairman.

Having always presumed a basis of fair play in English law, I was horrified to discover that Alan Sugar is legally able to purchase each and every

share in the company at a price which bears no relation to what the current holders paid for them, or to the underlying net asset value. It seems even more incredible that he can borrow money from the company itself to fund his acquisition.

Accepted wisdom seems to be that shareholders cannot hope for any better proposition than that being made by Alan Sugar — and no doubt he has obtained agreement from the institutional shareholders to vote his way, before making the offer.

I feel that, as usual, the interests of small shareholders — of which there are many in this "popular" company — are being completely disregarded. Many I am sure, are in the same position as me, having paid considerably more than the 30p offer price, yet without any individual leverage to influence the outcome of the vote, or any option but to accept a loss on their investment.

Yours faithfully, FRANCES LECKIE, Two Bolsover Court, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Bank charges and changing foreign currency cheques into sterling

From Mrs P. Van Rappard

Sir, Following hard on the heels of John Major and Norman Lamont in their recently declared intentions of pursuing the banks over various forms of perceived "bad practice" I would like to join in the current climate of criticism by asking the following questions.

Why is it that foreign currency cheques take between two and eight weeks to exchange into sterling in a United Kingdom bank ac-

count and why is there no standard charge for this presumably standard service?

My husband receives a monthly annuity from a Canadian insurance company, paid in Canadian dollars, and we have been quoted charges of between £10 and £30 monthly for exchanging this annuity into an amount of approximately £100 sterling.

Until recently, this negotiable cheque could be exchanged over the counter at a Bureau de Change for a

standard charge of £10 and with "same day service".

Now, we have to wait almost two months for the cheque to clear and never know what the charge is going to be until our quarterly statement is issued.

Comments from self-righteous bankers would be appreciated.

Yours etc, P. VAN RAPPARD, 64 Lurkins Rise, Cranbrook, Kent.

Notice to Firstdirect customers.

Decreases in mortgage rates

For all loans drawn before 20 October 1992 the following rates will apply from 1 December 1992. The Firstdirect mortgage rate will decrease by 0.70% to 9.25% p.a. and for mortgages of £50,000 or more agreed after 8 July 1991 the rate will reduce by 0.55% to 8.95% p.a.

For all loans drawn prior to 17 November 1992 the following rates will apply from 21 December 1992. Firstdirect mortgage rate will decrease by a further 0.76% to 8.49% p.a. For mortgages of £50,000 or more agreed after 8 July 1991 the rate will reduce by a further 0.76% to 8.19% p.a. For loans drawn on or after 17 November 1992 the new rates are effective immediately.

Mortgage and home improvement loan agreements will be varied accordingly.

Decrease in unauthorised overdraft rate

With effect from 20 November 1992 Firstdirect unauthorised overdraft rate is decreased by 0.90% to 29.0% p.a.

first direct
0345 100 100

Firstdirect is a division of Midland Bank plc. Firstdirect, Millshaw Park Lane, Leeds LS11 0LT. Tel. 0345 100 100.

مكتبة الأصل

Modest gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 16. Dealings end November 27. Contango day November 30. Settlement day December 7. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. If you have won or lost, you will see it here. If you have won or lost, you will see it here. If you have won or lost, you will see it here.

No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Minicom	Computing	...
2	Barrat Dev	Building	...
3	Galileo	Drugs	...
4	King Shanon	Drugs	...
5	Thom	Food	...
6	Alfred Jones	Food	...
7	Shilling Pub	Food	...
8	TT Group	Food	...
9	Obba Maw	Food	...
10	Mirco Gp	Food	...
11	Scottish Power	Electricity	...
12	Unilever	Food	...
13	Telecom	Telecom	...
14	Geosound	Food	...
15	Portals	Food	...
16	Midland (A&I)	Food	...
17	Vaux Group	Food	...
18	Shilling Pub	Food	...
19	GNV	Food	...
20	M & G	Food	...
21	Wholesale Pgs	Food	...
22	BICC	Food	...
23	Dr Land	Food	...
24	Deaneville	Food	...
25	Korham's	Food	...
26	Coopers	Food	...
27	Wellcome	Food	...
28	Bulmer (H P)	Food	...
29	Unilever	Food	...
30	Groce	Food	...
31	Cheriton (H)	Food	...
32	Dela	Food	...
33	Britannic	Food	...
34	Center Allen	Food	...
35	Anglia TV	Food	...
36	Wills Coroon	Food	...
37	Deaneville	Food	...
38	Johnson	Food	...
39	Shilling Pub	Food	...
40	Sid Walen	Food	...

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES
If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 5.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details).

Three winners equally share yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mr A Price, Newport, Isle of Wight; Mrs D Rootes, London N7; and Mr E Dawson, Soham, Cambs.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
30	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100	100
31	Bank of Ireland	100	100	100	100	100
32	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100	100
33	Bank of England	100	100	100	100	100
34	Bank of London	100	100	100	100	100
35	Bank of North Wales	100	100	100	100	100
36	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100	100
37	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100	100
38	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100	100
39	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100	100
40	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Amey	100	100	100	100	100
2	Bechtel	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carillion	100	100	100	100	100
4	Chambers	100	100	100	100	100
5	Costain	100	100	100	100	100
6	Day	100	100	100	100	100
7	Heath	100	100	100	100	100
8	James	100	100	100	100	100
9	John	100	100	100	100	100
10	McAlpine	100	100	100	100	100

High Low Company

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

BUSINESS SERVICES

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY, STORES

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICITY

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

FOODS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

HOTELS, CATERERS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS

1992	High Low Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Adnams	100	100	100	100	100
2	Beck's	100	100	100	100	100
3	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100	100
4	Guinness	100	100	100	100	100
5	Heineken	100	100	100	100	100
6	King	100	100	100	100	100
7	Miller	100	100	100	100	100
8	Stout	100	100	100	100	100
9	Tottenham	100	100	100	100	100
10	Watney	100	100	100	100	100

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ROCK page 32
Robert Palmer tests his voice, and his fans' patience, with an evening of nostalgia

ARTS

THEATRE page 33

Adieu to Oxford: Alan Ayckbourn looks back on a year there as a visiting professor



VISUAL ART: The magnificent Sickert retrospective at the Royal Academy reviewed; plus recommended exhibitions

Scenes from a life filled with variety

Sickert's late pictures, once dismissed as crude, can now be seen as the climax of the artist's career, says Richard Cork

Leaning perilously over the edge of the cheapest seats, a grey-haired clutch of music-hall devotees gawp at the stage far below. The object of their adoration cannot be seen. But they are sitting in the celebrated Old Bedford, and Sickert's original title for the painting proves that Little Dot Hetherington was singing her runaway hit "The Boy I love is up in the Gallery". Captivated by her performance, each of the staring men imagines that she is directing the song at him. And Sickert, in turn, fully shared their spellbound response.

By 1895, when this arresting canvas was probably painted, he had long been notorious for his willingness to regard the music hall as a legitimate subject for high art.

Seven years earlier, Sickert aroused waspish condemnation with his equally ambitious picture of Katie Lawrence regaling the audience at Gatti's with a full-throated rendition of "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do". One critic declared that it was "the lowest degradation of which the art of painting is capable", but Sickert was unrepentant. In his defiant view, the "plastic arts are gross arts, dealing joyously with gross material facts". The raucous, uninhibited vigour of the music hall was far better calculated to produce a robust picture than a genteel theme, and he even insisted that while painting and sculpture "flourish in the scullery or on the dunghill, they fade at a breath from the drawing-room".

Now that his rebellious canvases of that period have been reassembled, in the first room of the Royal Academy's great retrospective, they vindicate his confidence. But only because he discovered in these seedy palaces of variety an unexpected vein of poetry. Little Dot appears at the centre of one outstanding early image, reflected in a mirror as she stands, caught by a spotlight, on the Old Bedford's stage. As her finger points up to "the boy" in the gallery, she looks oddly doll-like and vulnerable.

Sickert discovered even more fragility in the close-up painting of Minnie Cunningham at the Tivoli, performing her popular song "The Art of Making Love". Sickert paints her with a melting, near-fluorescent looseness which makes her resemble a wraith.

The audacious simplicity of the Cunningham picture shows how great a debt Sickert owed to his

'Sickert finds unexpected poetry in the seedy palaces of variety'

mentor Whistler. On the whole, though, his friendship with Degas dominates the music-hall pictures. They derive, too closely at times, from the café-concert, ballet and theatre images Degas had earlier produced. The two men first met in 1883, and Sickert's admiration was immediate. They appear together in a photograph taken at Dieppe, reproduced now in Yale University Press's handsome catalogue of the exhibition. But Sickert only became fully himself once Degas's shadow had grown less prominent, and he began to gain his independence in Venice.

The views of the city painted on his first visit are not, on the whole, very memorable, but a subsequent visit yielded some powerful figure studies. *Mamma Mia Poveretta* is

the most dramatic and — compassionately, defining an old woman's haggard features with an insight worthy of Rembrandt. Even more prophetic is the group of paintings where a nude woman sprawls back on a bed near a clothed female companion. Sickert's brush achieves a new breadth and fluency as he summarises the ungainly limbs spread-eagled amid the rucked-up sheets.

All the same, he only discovered how to develop the tension-filled potential of this subject on his return to London. There, stimulated by the low-life atmosphere of Camden Town and the brutal murder of an attractive young prostitute called Emily Dimmock in the same area, he produced his most sinister and disquieting images. Harmless conversations in luminous Venetian bedrooms gave way to darker, more despairing and implicitly violent confrontations.

The nude lying on the iron-frame bed in *L'Affaire de Camden Town* seems to cower as she twists away from the man gazing resolutely down at her. Sickert's brushmarks take on a stabbing, slashing force as he fleshes out her defenceless limbs. And the eerie bluish light spreading across the claustrophobic scene gives the painting a weird, underwater remoteness. The crime itself is not specified.

The apotheosis of this approach can be found in his most familiar painting, *Ennui*. Virginia Woolf was prompted to write a detailed interpretation of the malaise afflicting this couple, the one puffing on his cigar while the other leans her thin elbows on the dingy chest-drawers and stares gloomily at



The Gallery of the Old Bedford: Sickert was notorious for his willingness to regard the music hall as a legitimate subject for high art

some stuffed birds enclosed in a glass container. "It is all over with them, one feels," wrote Woolf. But despite *Ennui*'s novel-like complexity, Sickert leaves open-ended the precise nature and, indeed, the future of the relationship between this desiccated pair.

What he did not intend, in the largest version of *Ennui*, is a disappointing deadness of execution. Its size led him to handle the pigment with a doggedness which leaves the vivacity of the small version far behind. Maybe he overworked this listless image: a grand tempera painting of *The New Bedford*, executed the following year, benefits hugely from a direct, sensuous handling which *Ennui* lacks. But he almost certainly

intended to finish *The New Bedford* in oil, so the exhilaration of its incomplete state is a happy accident.

Sickert had yet to learn how to push himself towards a more summary, risk-taking approach, and for the next decade he suffered from considerable uncertainty about how best to proceed. He was always an uneven painter, and some of the show's weakest pictures date from this difficult period. Then, quite suddenly, he used a photograph of himself eating cereal as the basis of a wonderfully energetic canvas called *Lazarus breaks his Fast*. Its vitality and shaggy aplomb announced a re-awakening, after the depression he had suffered following his wife's

death in 1920. Rejoicing now in a new marriage, and symbolically discarding Walter in favour of his second name, Richard, the 67-year-old painter plunged into a final decade of zestful, unpredictable innovation.

For many years, his late pictures were castigated for their supposed crudeness and open reliance on newspaper photographs. But now they can be seen as the brave and resourceful climax of his long career. Sickert ranged over the entire spectrum of society, from a choleric George V in conspiratorial discussion with his racing manager to a sooty miner giving his wife a fierce, coal-black kiss.

Sometimes, the insights seem astonishingly prescient: the new

king Edward VIII wavers on spindly legs and clutches his Welsh Guards bearskin like a muffler as he steps, unsteadily, from a car. More often than not, though, frailty is pitched against gusto. *High Steppers*, based on a publicity still of the Plaza Tiller Girls, look almost ghostly as their frothy dresses and kicking legs threaten to dissolve in the blurred, buttery paint.

But the octogenarian Sickert makes sure that their *élan* is conveyed as well, by an artist who retained his awed enthusiasm for theatrical spectacle to the last.

The Sickert retrospective runs at the Royal Academy (071-439 7438) until Feb 14. A smaller show opens at Browse & Darby (071-734 7984) on Nov 26.

GALLERIES: CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **BARBIZON AND L'ECOLE DE LA NATURE.** Interest in the Barbizon School of open-air painters peaked towards the end of the last century, after which they were promptly eclipsed by the Impressionists on whom they had exerted such a formative influence. Millet has always been the exception, and was certainly the strongest painter of them all. But a recent revival of interest has revealed the sober charms of several others: in this show Harpignies (1819-1916) in particular emerges as a forceful and subtle landscapist, though some of the rest are perhaps a little too drab to be really loved. Agnews, 43 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6176). Mon-Fri. 9.30am-5.30pm (Thurs to 6.30pm), until Dec 18.

● **BEARDSLEY TO BOMBERG.** A further trawl through the permanent collection of the Tate has brought to the surface a remarkable group of rarely shown works on paper from the period 1870-1920, or the beginnings of the Aesthetic Movement to the first heyday of Modernism in Britain. Some of Beardsley's finest decadent drawings are included, together with those of the Camden Town Group, Paul Nash and Bomberg. The emphasis is on the peculiarly British attitude to the drawing and watercolour as an artwork in its own right. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm. Sun, 2-6pm, until Feb 14.

● **EUROPEANS IN CARICATURE.** The British Museum has nearly 20,000 caricatures, mostly hand-coloured etchings, from the great age of caricature, 1770-1830. To reflect the less solemn side of the current European Arts Festival, 92 prime examples have been chosen, illustrating the way the French saw the English, the English saw the French, and the Italians, Germans, Russians, Spanish and Dutch saw one another. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Jan 24.

● **ASAFO.** The Fante of Ghana are a warlike people who these days sublimate their aggressions in the production of extraordinary flags, designed for rival groups and frequently embodying teasing insult and other forms of provocation in illustrations of traditional proverbs. Even to those unversed in their subtleties of expression, the brightly coloured flags make a brave spectacle. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 (071-928 3002). Daily, 10am-10pm, until Dec 6.

● **AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER?** The painting by W.F. Yeames must be one of the best-known British canvases, though few could name the painter. It is an outstandingly memorable example of a whole school of Victorian historical painting, inculcating the rudiments of sentimental anecdote. Yeames himself was at the centre of this school, particularly that part of it known as the St John's Wood clique. Other members are also featured in the exhibition. Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051-207 0001). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. Sun, midday-5pm, until Jan 10.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

A long wait for a small wonder

RAISED eyebrows amongst the music press this week, as Sony finally unveiled its new MiniDisc hi-fi system this week at a lunchtime presentation in the West End. While broadly welcoming the idea of a system which delivers, in miniature, nearly all the features of compact disc, many observers were taken aback by the initial asking price of £400 for a standard, playback-only Walkman model (the MZ-2P). To purchase a model that can record as well as play back (the MZ-1) will cost in the region of £500. Pre-recorded MDs will cost the same as compact discs, while a blank MD (for recording on, like a blank cassette) will retail at about £9.

In the fanciful words of Sony's marketing folk, MD is a sound-carrying system which "fulfils the aspirations of the Nintendo generation". In particular the benefits of rapid random access to any point on the disc was considered a crucial factor among young consumers who are apparently too impatient to wait longer than a couple of seconds to hear the selection of their choice.

However, many will have to wait considerably longer than that to hear the music of their choice on MD, given that

ARTS BRIEFING

there are only 250 titles initially available in the new format. Of this week's Top 20 albums, only four are released on MD: those by Simple Minds, Michael Bolton, Gloria Estefan and Belinda Carlisle. Lovers of classical music may have to be more patient still. Among the dozen or so "classical titles" so far on offer are items by Nigel Kennedy (Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*), Boston Pops/John Williams (The Spielberg/Williams collaboration) and Barbara Streisand.

THERE were gasps of disbelief in the Park Lane Hotel on Wednesday at the third annual awards run by the rock magazine *Q*, when it was announced that Crowded House had won the prize for Best Live Act of 1992. The modestly successful New Zealand four-piece, whose stage shows are notable for their lack of any visual interest whatsoever, were voted the best live act by the *Q* readership ahead of U2 (whose critically-acclaimed Zoo TV tour had



Snoopy: about to make a debut in the cinema

been running for most of the period in question), Bruce Springsteen and Guns N' Roses.

Snoopy on screen

● **SUPERMAN** might have met his maker this week in the pages of DC Comics, destroyed in a battle with a deranged hulk called Doomsday. But Charlie Brown still goes marching on. Now 42 years old, Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" strip is poised to make its live-action cinema

debut in a Warner Brothers film to be written and produced by John Hughes, the youth-movie specialist responsible for *Home Alone*. No casting decisions have yet been made for the roles of Charlie, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and the other inhabitants of Schulz's droll world. But Warner Brothers should brace themselves for an avalanche of mail: when a call went out for actors aged from five to seven to play the title role in Hughes's current comic-strip venture, *Dennis the Menace*, the studio received around 15,000 audition tapes.

Last chance...

EVERGREEN songs are twisted into outlandish shapes in the hands of Betty Carter, the jazz vocalist who ends her two-week visit to Ronnie Scott's, London W1 (071-439 0747) tomorrow. An astute talent spotter, Carter has made a point of using some of the sharpest new players in her many backing trios. The group appearing at Frith Street has been no exception. At the end of her residency Carter moves on to Ronnie Scott's Birmingham venue (021-643 4525) for a further week.

"IN THE SHARPEST TRADITION OF BRITISH COMEDY"

A comedy about love, friendship and other natural disasters.

KENNETH BRANAGH STEPHEN FRY HUGH LAURIE RITA LUDNER TONY SLATTERY EMMA THOMPSON

PETER'S FRIENDS

Screenplay: Peter Nichols. Music: John Williams. Produced by: Peter Nichols. Directed by: Peter Nichols.

Also starring: Nina Simone, Queen, Cyndi Lauper, Bruce Springsteen, The Pretenders, Tina Turner, Eric Clapton, The Passions, Michael Nesmith, Daryl Braithwaite.

"INTELLIGENT, ARTFUL, CLEVER CINEMA"

"HILARIOUS"

"A TRIUMPH... SUPERB"

IN THE WEST END AND AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU NOW

صحنه من الأصل

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on David Storey's new play premiered at the National

Stages on the road to isolation

IN David Storey's work, people get depressed, have nervous breakdowns or go mad with disconcerting frequency and for quite a variety of reasons. In his *Home*, which is actually set in the grounds of a lunatic asylum, the problem seems simply to be personal inadequacy and loneliness. In his *Celebration*, as in several other of his plays, it is the pain of reconciling working-class roots with the middle-class life. Only in his early *Restoration of Arnold Middleton* does it have something to do with the protagonist's seduction of, or by, his mother-in-law.

And what of Fenchurch, the writer and painter whom Alan Bates plays so wistfully in Storey's haunting new piece? A psychiatrist attempting a diagnosis on the basis of the evidence offered by the text would probably find a mixture of causes. But especially the last, most eccentric one. Many years ago Fenchurch married the daughter of the rich Yorkshire merchant whose fortunes came about the coal that his own father developed silicosis digging up. He then proceeded to have an affair with her mother, was committed to a mental hospital when she died, and now festers in isolation somewhere north of King's Cross.

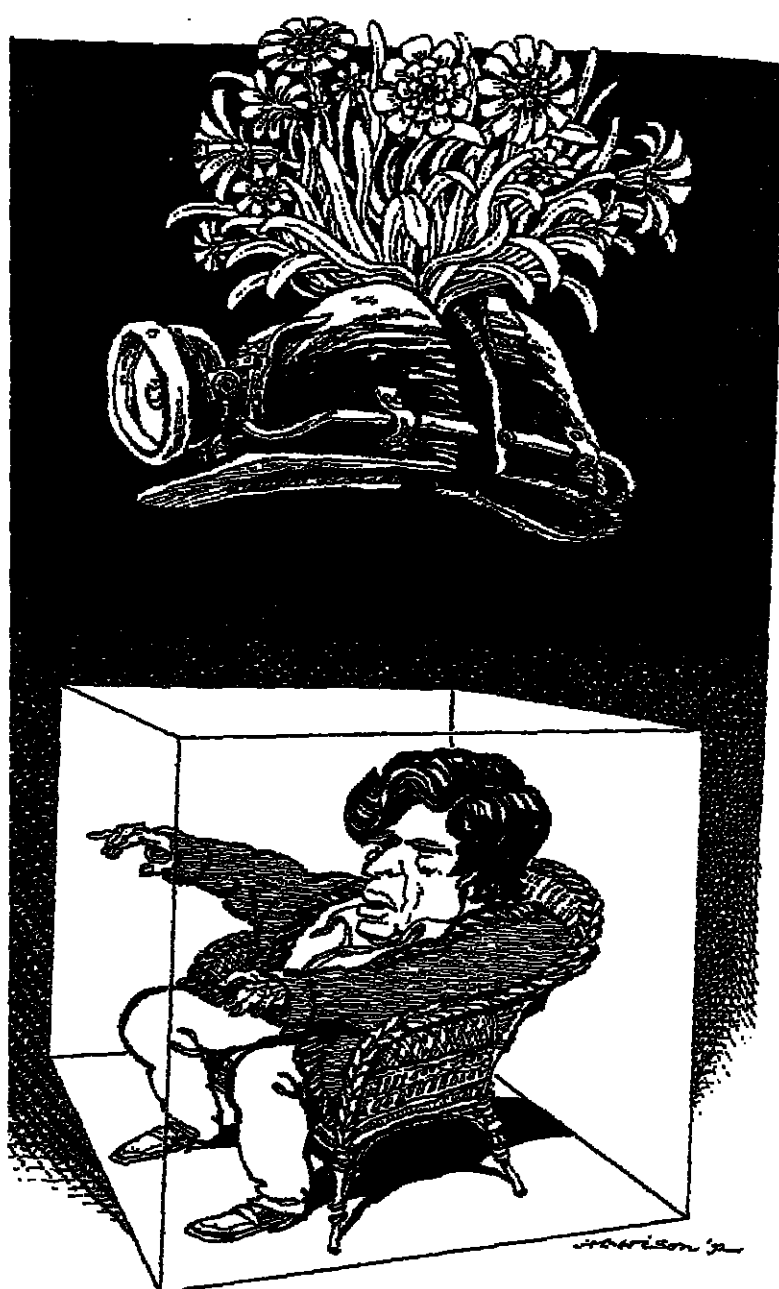
The source of the play's tension is whether or not his ex-wife will succeed in luring him away from the beige walls and plain, brown furniture of up-market Yorkshire; but tension is not in very great supply. The play is more about revisiting the past than making any strong, sudden moves in the present. Those who come to Fenchurch's stark pad include a daughter, a shrink, and the unhappily married woman who lives next door; but their function is mostly to listen while he tells them things they must already know. The result is an elegy for lost times and places, an obituary that has been free-associated by the corpse-to-be himself.

But there is nothing so very wrong with that, given the team that is in creative control. Astringency and un-

Stages
Cottesloe

sentimental discipline are everywhere to be seen. Lindsay Anderson directs as coolly as he has directed most of Storey's previous plays. And Bates, himself a veteran of the dramatist's *Celebration* and *Life Class*, brings an understated melancholy to moments which he might have been expected to pack with acid or anger. When he talks of his own family's hatred of his art, it is with little more than a sad shrug of the battered grey cardigan draped across his slumped shoulders. The "dark tornado," as he tells us people once called him, has clearly spent itself; and mournful reverie is pretty well all that is left.

The odd lone figure is inevitable, even though Bates's ruminations last barely 90 minutes, and I caught myself drifting away as his Fenchurch described some of the more remote branches of his in-laws' family tree. Moreover, Marjorie Yates, Gabrielle Lloyd and Rosemary Martin—respectively the vaguely resentful ex-wife, the earnest, concerned daughter and the troubled neighbour—can do little to galvanise the proceedings. Even the excellent Joanna David, allegedly an expert at curing depressive artists, seems scarcely more alive than the chair in which she well-meaningly sits. Yet when Bates talks of his father, or the old Yorkshire, or living in a garret in London, or an alcoholic mistress who committed suicide, he effortlessly holds the stage and our attention; and when he turns to Isabella, as his mother-in-law was called, it is with a quiet tenderness of which I for one had not hitherto thought him capable. What does it all mean? Storey once said that a play "is almost in the measure that it escapes and refuses definition." He has always been a writer who hints rather than states, let alone hectors. Indeed, the conflict between "a sense of social justice and the freedom to write and paint," which



Quiet melancholy: Alan Bates as Fenchurch in Lindsay Anderson's production of David Storey's *Stages*. Drawing by Bill Hewison

he himself suggested in an interview in these pages might be the play's theme, is only vestigially visible. The real schism in Fenchurch as Storey and Bates have jointly created him is between the ordinary, everyday love he

felt for his wife and the impossible yearnings of the dark, anarchic parts he keeps hidden from the world. And, whatever the reservations, they make for an odder, more troubling and rather better play.

ROCK: A usually assured performer ventures out of his depth; and American dance music meets agitprop

Standard recipe for full-dress fiasco

Robert Palmer
Albert Hall

ROBERT PALMER'S fondness for exploring the by-roads of mainstream pop has made him a consistently interesting performer to observe. At times, his career choices have seemed wilful rather than wise, but the strand of sophisticated pop-soul running through his many and varied experiments has provided some highly enjoyable moments.

The image he has cultivated, meanwhile, one of urbane, slightly tongue-in-cheek machismo, has made him seem effortlessly in control, even during his more dangerous missions. In advertising terms, he is pop's equivalent of the black-clad Milk Tray Man. It was disorienting and disquieting, then, to find him floundering in full evening dress in front of the BBC Radio Orchestra, during a performance built around a nucleus of

material from his newly-released album *Ridin' High*.

A sequence of standards with three self-written pieces slipped in its midst, the collection would seem to be Palmer's attempt to test himself as a genuine soul stylist. It was not about nostalgia, he told his audience early on, but a desire to use songs to tell stories. Cumulatively, the tale they told was a sorry one, however. For all his spark and nuance as a pop performer, he was revealed here as far out of his depth before a loyal but palpably embarrassed crowd.

His taste in material was no the problem—songs by Cy Coleman,

Billie Holiday and Johnny Mercer are fine by anybody's standards. But Palmer's low-key, soul-inflected versions fell horribly flat in so cavernous a venue. Only on songs rich in tacit sexuality did he recover anything resembling his usual assured personality. Elsewhere, all was tasteless and strangely lifeless and dull.

When the evening came to a close with an ill-judged version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," performed in gruesome duet with Carrie Phillips of the glossy American pop trio Wilson Phillips, one felt guiltily relieved—less for oneself than for Palmer, forced to plough through the two-hour set. Milk Tray Man can rarely have had a tougher or more thankless assignment.

ALAN JACKSON

Elegant lessons in rap

The Disposable
Heroes of Hipocrisy
Town & Country

of expectation was exploited by the band, who did not appear until nearly ten o'clock.

A brisk fun overture was followed by a sinuous reading of "Satanic Reverses". Lead rapper Michael Franti negotiated lines such as "In 1970 the Opec nations began to dominate the world's oil economy" with the delicacy of a jazz singer.

That water-testing exercise led into cool-jazz versions of material from their album, *Hipocrisy is the Greatest Luxury*. On some of these, Franti abandoned rapping and sang in a resonant voice reminiscent of Gil Scott-Heron. Charlie Hunter's languid guitar playing heightened the illusion that the audience had stumbled into the wrong gig.

It was left to Franti's partner, Roni Tse, to keep up Hip-hop appearances. He contributed dancing, a bit of bad language and the odd verse. His real job, though, was the operation of various power tools, which he applied to a set of wheel rims on a table. The Disposable Heroes have adopted rap, but they have more in common with Sixties agitpropers such as Heron and The Last Poets. This performance was a reminder that elegance can be as persuasive as aggression.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

LONDON

DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN John Coe's expressive new staging of the Strauss opera, conducted, sung and acted by a Royal Opera cast including Anna Compton-Simon (Empress), African soprano Jane Henschel (Nurse) and Franz Grundheber (Baron). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

ST PETERSBURG BALLET

THEATRE: A visiting Russian ballet troupe that offers something different from the standard Tchaikovsky fare. Bond Edman's company, making its British debut with this tour, is presenting two outstanding productions. *Swan Lake* (Ballet) selected from Sergei Prokofiev and Fyodor Ignatiev, a comedy based on the Gaiety of Saville and set to music by Rossini. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

SIMPLY RED

With the group's three albums currently charting, the band's new album *Life* is out. The album features a new single, "Life", which is a cover of the UK's The Beatles' "Let It Be". The album is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

JOHN CALE

The former Velvet Underground member returns to the UK, after an absence of several years, for a solo tour to promote his new album *John Cale*. The album is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

ORPHY ROBINSON AND ANNABY

The world-class soprano and mezzo-soprano duo perform a new production of *Orpheus*, a play by Euripides. The play is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

Anna Compton-Simon and John Coe's new production of *An Ideal Husband*, a play by Oscar Wilde. The play is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

Tommy Stinson's new production of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, a play by Manuel Puig. The play is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

SISTER ACT

Whitney Houston's new production of *Sister Act*, a play by Jane Milder. The play is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT

David Byrne's new production of *Smiles of a Summer Night*, a play by Ingmar Bergman. The play is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

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David Byrne's new production of *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me*, a play by Ingmar Bergman. The play is available on CD and cassette. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

Jazz Cafe

54 Parkway, W11 0ET (071-284 1333) tonight, tomorrow, 7pm

PURCELL WEEKEND

Events start tonight with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and soloists at the Purcell Room, 2.30pm. This is followed by an evening concert by the Purcell Quartet with Ben Partridge, 8pm. Tomorrow there is a concert of music for large voices, given by Gustav Leonhardt and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, 7.45pm. South Bank Centre, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800)

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH: The Caire, headed by local Robert Smith, returns to the UK at the end of a world tour promoting a well-received new album. With Glasgow Theatre, 18 Garscube Road, 031-557 2622, tonight, tomorrow, 7pm

GLASGOW

Balmain House, 18 Garscube Road, 031-557 2622, tonight, tomorrow, 7pm

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

MAKING IT BETTER

Lust, readiness and ambition revealed as an English couple battle to make a go of it in a new production of *Making It Better*, a play by Caryl Churchill. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

OUR SONGS

Peter Dinklage's new production of *Our Songs*, a play by Caryl Churchill. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

RADIO TIMES

Tony Satterly in a new production of *Radio Times*, a play by Caryl Churchill. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICES

Neil Simon's new production of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voices*, a play by Caryl Churchill. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

THE STREET OF CROCODILES

Theatre on Complex presents the new production of *The Street of Crocodiles*, a play by Caryl Churchill. 7.22 (071-340 1066) tonight, 8pm

NEW RELEASES

RAPID FIRE (18): Pan co-thriller, pan kung fu showcase for Bruce Lee's son Brandon. Starring Lee for genre fans. Director, Dwight H. Little. MGM Home Video (071-833 1327) MGM On Demand (071-833 0310)

SINGLE WHITE FEMALE

New romantic comedy about a woman who becomes a crack addict. Directed by David Mamet. MGM Home Video (071-833 1327) MGM On Demand (071-833 0310)

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

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Robert Palmer: an assignment too far for the Milk Tray Man?

SA FRANCISCO'S Disposable Heroes of Hipocrisy are several categories removed from your average Adidas-and-explicitly-merchandise. They are the first rappers to cross political activism with an almost scholarly articulateness. The duo's songs do not contain lyrics so much as texts, which typically begin, "Sometimes I feel like a socio-genetic experiment". Their unique, if rather grim, style of "edutainment" has won the adoration of the hipster section of the media.

This show was attended by the Groucho Club's entire complement of men with straggly ponytails. The sense

of expectation was exploited by the band, who did not appear until nearly ten o'clock.

A brisk fun overture was followed by a sinuous reading of "Satanic Reverses". Lead rapper Michael Franti negotiated lines such as "In 1970 the Opec nations began to dominate the world's oil economy" with the delicacy of a jazz singer.

That water-testing exercise led into cool-jazz versions of material from their album, *Hipocrisy is the Greatest Luxury*. On some of these, Franti abandoned rapping and sang in a resonant voice reminiscent of Gil Scott-Heron. Charlie Hunter's languid guitar playing heightened the illusion that the audience had stumbled into the wrong gig.

It was left to Franti's partner, Roni Tse, to keep up Hip-hop appearances. He contributed dancing, a bit of bad language and the odd verse. His real job, though, was the operation of various power tools, which he applied to a set of wheel rims on a table. The Disposable Heroes have adopted rap, but they have more in common with Sixties agitpropers such as Heron and The Last Poets. This performance was a reminder that elegance can be as persuasive as aggression.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

MICHAEL PARKER GALLERY 11, Moorgate, EC2A 4PU (071-252 8144) paintings, 7.22 (071-252 8144)

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Paintings, 7.22 (071-252 8144) paintings, 7.22 (071-252 8144)

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon 54, Curzon Mayfair, 071-481 1200

THEATRES

ADRIAN PHOENIX Phoenix 54, Curzon Mayfair, 071-481 1200

OPERA & BALLET

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THEATRES

ADRI

Stars in the making

HILARY FINCH

As a company-based writer and one of Britain's foremost dramatists, Ayckbourn will always have an outlet for new work. He sympathises with the up-and-coming writers, but, in the end, hard work and struggle is what it's all about. "Most of it is like mountaineering," he says. "We only do it to frighten ourselves."

EXT PAGE

INFOTECH

The Natural History Museum is developing a computer program to transform biological work, Nick Nuttall writes

In search of havens for flora and fauna

At the Natural History Museum in London, botanists, entomologists and zoologists are developing a computer system which may play a crucial role in helping to conserve the planet's endangered animals and plants.

The system, called World Map, can give planners of national parks and areas of conservation a more efficient way of identifying the sites they need to protect to save the maximum number of animals and plant species in a given part of the globe.

The program, an example of an expert system, will analyse knowledge on the num-

bers, distribution and types of species in an area which has been gathered over many years from scientific field trips.

Dr Chris Humphries, a senior scientist on the museum team, says: "It will then optimise the possibility of getting maximum biodiversity in the minimum number of areas." The museum's team has just completed a project looking at antelopes in Africa for the species survival commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, based in Gland, Switzerland.

The IUCN furnished information including maps on the distribution and relationships of Africa's 78 antelope species and then the program was set to work. It identified between 40 and 50 key conservation sites, in order of importance, that would save the maximum number of antelope species.

Some of the sites identified were already conservation areas. However, the program showed that they may be less important than other sites that are not protected. World Map is also being deployed in Brazil where it is trying

to identify, in order of priority, areas in the Amazon Basin containing the maximum number of species of economically important trees, including members of the coco plum and Brazil nut families.

Researchers at the Australian National Museum are harnessing the system to identify sites for lizards. In South Africa, at Cape Town University's Percy Fyfe Institute, World Map is being used for game birds such as quails.

The system highlights how zoologists, botanists and botanical gardens around the world are starting to turn to information technology to improve their understanding of the world's flora and fauna.

Dr Nancy Morin, manager of the research data bases at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St Louis and shortly to be its deputy director, says: "Botanical gardens have done their business in much the same way since the early 1600s. Computers are making the biggest change in the history of the discipline."

The Missouri Garden is a member of the Centre for Plant Conservation, a network of botanical gardens dedicated to managing populations of rare and endangered plant species in a garden setting. "Each has made the commitment to maintain viable populations from their areas. We use computers to keep in track of who has which populations and how they



Home sweet home: researchers at the Australian National Museum are identifying conservation areas for lizards

are doing," Dr Morin says.

Better management of collections is possible with modern information technology. Harvard University's Herbaria is, for example, bar coding dried plant specimens rather like supermarkets code food.

Herbaria are akin to lending libraries with often many thousands of species being despatched and returned each year. The bar coding system, which is being developed by Jim Beach, the data administrator, will help to keep track of specimens so that scientists know what is on loan and where, and what is in storage.

A bar coding system also allows a herbaria to rapidly alter cataloguing details if new research indicates that some

plants should be renamed rather than having to amend, by hand, written records.

The Harvard Herbaria is also experimenting with geographic information systems and satellite imaging data to pinpoint the locations of plant species in Borneo. Such techniques may help to cut the costs of floral surveys by reducing the time and number of scientists needed in the field.

Where computers are expected to play an ever increasing role is in the challenge to classify, describe and name the between five and 30 million species alive on Earth. It is estimated that fewer than 1.6 million have been studied at even the most basic level.

Crucial to this process is

access to details on collections held at the world's leading centres. This enables researchers to establish the extent of duplication and whether identical species have been catalogued under different names in different places. Meanwhile researchers in the field can quickly establish whether or not a "find" is indeed new.

One of the projects Dr Morin is involved in is collecting and documenting the plants on lands from Mexico to the Colombian border. The Flora Mesoamericana project, launched in 1981, is being run in conjunction with Natural History Museum, in London, and the National Autonomous University in Mexico. According to Dr Sandy Knapp of the London museum, the project is helping to fill "a vacuum of knowledge about what is out there both on the ground and in museums".

The Flora Mesoamericana project's first volume is to be published in April 1993 in book form. The information is also being loaded onto Missouri's Tropics data base. By accessing the Joint Academic Network (JANET) in Britain,

botanists will soon be able to have access to the St Louis database via America's Internet network. Such access could allow researchers in London, for example, to identify more rapidly a newly collected species from Central America as a relative of an economically important one previously believed to be alien to the region.

Over the coming years it is likely that computers will increase the rate at which different biological disciplines merge together in the race to conserve biodiversity.

By analysing knowledge on a plant with information on climatic conditions, geography, soil chemistry, and, for example, distribution of predators, scientists may improve the success rate of reintroductions of rare species.

Whether the full potential of global biological data bases can be realised will depend on the adoption of standards and issues of intellectual property rights. Charles Stirling, deputy director of Kew Gardens, which is reviewing its information technology strategy, says: "These are not trivial issues. Technically things may be more achievable than they are ethically."

ONLINE

Goggle eyes

SONY has developed a goggle-like television viewer that gives users the impression that they are watching a 33-inch screen at a distance of one metre. Users of the Visortron see images from two 0.7-inch liquid crystal displays which are reflected in two mirrors covering the eyes, and hear stereo sound through earphones. Sony, which is studying whether the device can damage the eye, has no immediate plans to market the sample product.

Splashing out

CHINESE officials have said that they plan to buy up to \$2 billion of American equipment to produce computer chips over the next two to three years. Until restrictions were relaxed last year, the sale of such equipment to China had been banned by Cocon, the multinational group that vets the export of advanced technologies to communist states.

Sales pitch

SALES of pre-recorded music will revive in 1993 but any increase is unlikely to be in existing formats, predicts a report from the research firm Euromonitor. At present the market is waiting to assess the impact of the recently launched digital compact cassette, which promises to record and playback with the quality of compact disc. Customers will have a further choice with the advent of the Minidisc, a small compact disc that has the same features.

Brain strain

A EUROPEAN research consortium is to participate in a Japanese project to develop a four-dimensional computer. Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said it was about to sign an agreement with the European Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics, which has research institutes in nine European countries, to develop a so-called "real world computer". The computer will be designed to process a vast quantity of vague and complicated data, imitating the functioning of the right side of the human brain. Its applications will include environmental studies, security in nuclear power stations and aircraft, and detection of cancers, an MITI official said.



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LEXMARK

Make Your Mark

No more key-bashing

Millions more people will take to computers if only the need to use a keyboard can be banished or at least reduced. That is the belief of several of the largest manufacturers who were showing off their latest products at the computer industry's biggest annual trade show, Comdex, which got under way in Las Vegas this week.

There are already several small notebook computers available that do away with the need for a keyboard by allowing users to point an electronic pen at the screen to give commands and that will also recognise separately written characters.

They have been particularly successful in some specialist applications such as filling in electronic order forms or in situations where the user is moving around and would find using a keyboard difficult.

Used as a sort of electronic clipboard, pen-based computer uses range from collecting data at the scene of a crime to replacing paper forms normally handwritten by a surgeon in the operating theatre.

The pen can be used to electronically tick boxes, choose from a menu of options or move symbols around a screen as well as the limited handwriting recognition.

This week Grid Systems, one of the forerunners in the field, decided to try and get the best of both worlds with the announcement of a "convertible" notebook computer. Although this £2,700 unit includes a keyboard, the screen can be removed and used by itself with an electronic stylus.

The company is hoping this will widen the appeal to ordinary computer users who need a portable computer complete with keyboard for general applications but might like, for example, to experiment with using the electronic pen as a

Electronic pens are replacing keyboards on notebook computers

way of taking "unobtrusive" notes in meetings. Other recommended uses are the mobile sending and receiving of faxes, entering hand drawn graphics and document notation. The computer, due to go on sale early next year, uses a standard 386



Sign here: electronic notepads can already recognise separate handwritten characters

chip and comes with a 125-megabyte hard disc drive.

For example while standing in a phone booth talking on a phone, a sales representative, who needs information stored on the hard disc can navigate through data using the pen with only one hand. Later that day sitting at his desk and using the keyboard, the same user can compose a

letter to a client," said Betsy Reagan, vice-president of marketing for Grid.

But the obstacle to wider use of pen-based computers is that they cannot recognise joined-up writing, making them of only limited use as note-takers.

Technically it is a horrendous problem to try and design software that will recognise the huge variations, and sometimes downright illegibility, of people's handwriting. On the other hand, if each character is printed reasonably clearly and separately, it is relatively easy for the software to decide which character a user's squiggle most closely resembles. Much more complex algorithms and larger memory would be needed to recognise a whole word at a time.

By the time these facilities arrive, we are likely to be well into the era of personal communicators - essentially smaller pen-based computers - which will include the functions of a cellular phone, pen-based computer, fax and electronic organizer and definitely no keyboard.

Apple, IBM, AT&T and a small startup called EO Inc, which is partially owned by AT&T, all used this week's exhibition to show their interest in the field while several companies such as Motorola showed wireless communications systems planned for such devices.

MATTHEW MAY

In case. For emergency.

A PC in the briefcase will keep you on the rails in case of commuting difficulties. Pack a Compaq notebook to use office applications at home. 386-based Compaq 320 has 40MB hard disk, VGA screen, 2MB RAM, trackball, battery. RRP £999, Morse price £825.

MORSE SHOWROOM SALES
78 High Holborn, London WC1. 071-831 0644

Out of house, out of mind

Contracting out computer services lets clients get on with what they do best, Jane Bird reports

Few businesses or government departments could function without a telephone system, yet they do not feel the need to become telecom operators. An increasing number are also beginning to think that they need not run their own computers.

They believe that, as with office cleaning and canteen services, computers might be more effectively managed by outsiders, leaving the organisation to concentrate on its main business.

The contracting out of computer operations, known as "outsourcing" or "facilities management", is one of the biggest trends in the computer industry. It is growing at 20 per cent a year and is forecast to be worth about £1 billion in the UK by 1995.

It was the freedom to focus on core activities that was the chief attraction for the Northern Regional Health Authority (NRHA) when it outsourced its entire computer operation two years ago following the government's 1989 white paper, "Working for Patients".

Ian Zickerman, director of human resources for the authority, says: "We wanted to reduce the management burden by ensuring that we would no longer be responsible for providing information technology."

Like most organisations that outsource this part of their business, the authority handed over 120 technical staff and all its computer equipment as part of the deal.

The 63 health organisations, including local hospitals that use the service, now have a much more direct relationship with their facilities management supplier, AT&T Istel, than they could with the NRHA, Mr Zickerman says. "The previous set-up was rather bureaucratic, whereas now they can talk straight to the service provider."

One clear attraction of outsourcing is that the client no longer needs to worry about investing in the latest technology — an expensive overhead in the fast-changing



Favourable prognosis: for large users of computers, such as health services, outsourcing can reduce the management burden

world of computers. Outsourcing suppliers, on the other hand, should have a vested interest in acquiring the latest and top-performing machines.

Outsourcing can also cause ill-feeling among staff, who may find themselves transferred to another employer overnight. At the NRHA it has proved popular, Mr Zickerman says.

"Opportunities for staff have improved because our facilities management supplier can offer far more career development potential to professionals in information technology than is available within the health service," he says.

But it is cutting costs that is always the prime motive, says Colin Weir, executive director for IT practice at the management consultancy, FA. "Whatever companies say, the main reason they are looking at outsourcing is to save money."

In this, many are disappointed, he says. "They may save in the short term, only to find themselves locked into a contract which prevents them from making further economies for many years."

In fact, most outsourcing suppliers can cut the cost of an in-house operation by between 40 per cent and 60 per cent simply by rethinking



Ian Zickerman: better career opportunities for staff

ing the way things are done, Mr Weir says. "The client is effectively handing the outsourcing vendor the extra cash which could have been kept in house if the operation had been redesigned from within."

The NRHA, which was offered immediate savings of 10 per cent on its computing costs, protected any future choice by restricting the initial contract to two years. Mr Weir believes that suppliers that try to lock customers in to long and inflexible contracts will fail.

"The gravity train mentality is doomed," he says. "Vendors which will survive in future are those that offer their clients a more flexible relationship based on partnership and trust, sharing the risks and rewards of the information technology operation."

One solution is for the vendor to charge a fixed margin of, say, 15 per cent plus extra for improved productivity.

The biggest problem is usually deciding whether or not additional services are covered by the original terms of the contract.

There has to be some flexibility here, says John Rioch, a director of CMG, an outsourcing supplier, because the client cannot possibly foresee all future requirements at the beginning of a project.

He says that his company is trying to design contracts that focus on the medium to long term and defining the sorts of things clients might want to do rather than precisely how they might be achieved.

Another danger for clients is losing expertise. Once you have transferred your staff and handed over your equipment, there may be nobody left within your organisation who understands what the outsourcing vendor is being asked

to do. This makes it hard to manage the contract and almost impossible to bring the information technology operation back in house at some future date. One manager who changed back from outsourcing to running information technology internally described it as "rather like a vasectomy — extremely difficult and painful to reverse."

It is a trap that almost caught the NRHA, Mr Zickerman recalls. "When we began the process of transfer, we thought we could move across the whole department and keep nothing in house. But we realised that in order to manage it effectively, we needed some way of knowing the right questions to ask. So we retained three high-level staff to take responsibility for information technology strategy."

There are undoubtedly benefits to be gained from outsourcing but not always those expected. A recent survey by CMG found that cost savings were rare and expectations of increased flexibility frequently disappointed.

"The inevitable conclusion is that people thinking of outsourcing do seem to be considerably more optimistic than they should be based on the experience of those who have done it," Mr Rioch says.

Contracts should not be forever

Thinking of Linking

When you need a powerful computer network and you need it fast, outsourcing may be the only solution. This was the position in which Link Interchange Network found itself five years ago.

Founded by a consortium of banks and building societies, Link's task was to set up a computer system that would connect more than 5,000 cash dispensers at its members' branches nationwide.

With few staff, scant technical skills and no equipment, the only realistic approach was outsourcing, says Jim Nix, Link's general manager of planning. "From a standing start, it is extremely difficult to build, test and implement computer systems with high security and high availability. The sensible solution is to go to the experts, devise a tightly worded service agreement, and let them take the strain."

Link invited a number of companies to compete for the contract to run its network, and selected British Telecom.

Within a year, BT had put the service in place, adding a major upgrade in July 1989 when a number of new financial institutions joined the network.

The speed at which the task was accomplished more than justified the decision to outsource, Mr Nix says.

However, the situation changed almost immediately. As the automatic cash-dispensers became more and more popular with customers, the computer network came under increased pressure.

Link's members became less tolerant of faults. Breaks in service were noticed. The fact that the Link team was not in direct control meant it could not respond fast to queries.

"The management information chain began to creak. We

were piggy-in-the-middle. Members had the impression that the story was changing minute by minute with nobody in control," Mr Nix says.

But the biggest bone of contention was cost. Link was paying BT for each transaction on the network. The more customers used their plastic cards, the more the banks and building societies had to fork out.

A team of consultants was hired to assess the situation. It concluded that for Link to bring its computers in house and move out of London would save so much money that a disaster recovery service could also be provided at no extra cost.

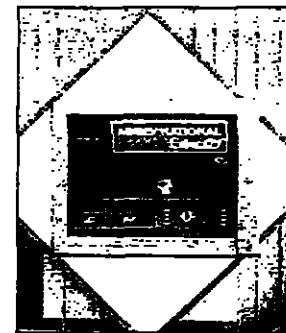
It was a risky move. Link had no experience of running its own network. But it relocated to Harrogate, set up a computer centre, and began to recruit staff. Once the new system was in place, it went through a gradual transfer of operations, with a series of dress-rehearsals before going solo in August 1991.

Mr Nix believes the strategy of moving in house has been well proved since then. "We have achieved higher service levels, faster response speeds and halved our cost per transaction. The incidence of volume-related faults has been reduced at a time when traffic is growing at about 30 per cent a year."

Outsourcing is not irreversible, he says. "But don't expect the incumbent service provider to make it easy for you — seize the initiative as soon as possible."

Outsourcing can work extremely well at the right time but it is crucial to keep an open mind and move operations back in house if appropriate, says Mr Nix. "Outsourcing is not a one-time decision. If the situation changes, change with it."

J.B.



Out and in: Link has returned in house

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Kredietbank of Belgium has been using EDS for many years. EDS helped them to develop a cash management system that responds instantaneously to fluctuations in money markets and exchange rates.

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Public matters in private hands

The shake-up has started. Government computing departments are either cutting their costs drastically, in preparation for privatisation, or gearing up for the possibility of being run by the private sector itself.

In response to the white paper "Competing for Quality", published a year ago parts of the civil service under central government control are now required to organise a programme of "market tests". These are regular assessments of whether you get better value for money by providing service internally or by buying it in through an external contractor. If you choose the latter, the service then becomes "outsourced".

There is no presumption that market testing will lead to outsourcing. But to run a sensible market test, there must be the possibility of being able to contract out the service, should you so wish. This involves being able to specify what the service is, being able to manage the contractual relationship, and to have some confidence in the quality of service being supplied by the contractor, says Elizabeth Ransom, a partner in charge of consultancy at KPMG's central government practice. All central government departments were required to submit market test programmes by March for the 1992/3 year.

One of the areas where it is easier to establish an objective measure-

Government departments are coming face to face with the market, reports

Clive Couldwell

ment of whether you are receiving the required level of service is in information technology.

The Inland Revenue, for example, has been considering the outsourcing of some or all of its information technology functions. It is now trying to improve the value for money and quality of work handled by its in-house unit, the information technology office.

The department has already market-tested and contracted out some activities, including record storage, and with it the problem of ensuring that sufficient controls are in place to safeguard confidential information.

Private contractors and their employees are required to adopt the same standards when protecting the privacy of taxpayer information as would apply to inland revenue employees.

The government's market testing programme, driven by the efficiency unit in the cabinet office, is also prompting local authorities to

radically rethink how they provide their services, including information technology.

Increasingly, local authorities are realising that the computer systems they run do not form part of their core activity, which is to ensure that services to the general public are delivered effectively to the appropriate standard.

Some are also unwilling, or in some cases, unable to sustain the high costs of running these systems. So they have often asked external suppliers — facilities management, or other outsourcing companies — to manage them instead.

According to figures about to be released from market researcher Romtec, public sector facilities management accounts for £53 million in local government. Central government departments and agencies account for £67 million.

It is a fast-growing industry. The British market for facilities management in information technology has reached more than £500 million a year, with the public sector accounting for nearly a third of that. Hoskyns is still the leading supplier overall though others are growing rapidly and closing the gap.

For example, Telecom Capita has grown particularly rapidly, almost exclusively from offering facilities management to the public sector. One of its customers, Berkshire County Council, is just over halfway through a five-year facilities management contract. The



Mike Fogarty: "We buy the capacity we need. We've saved 20 per cent of our budget in the first year."

company looks after the council's ICL mainframe computer and communications operation.

David Bowles, the county council treasurer, argues that the council has gained significantly from the experience. "The contract means we only pay for the resources we use and we have been able to reduce greatly our overheads as a result."

Hertfordshire Council has recently outsourced the bulk of its information technology operations to ITNet in an £11 million, five-year agreement. "We buy the

capacity we need," says Mike Fogarty, head of information services for the council. "We've saved 20 per cent of our budget in the first year."

Although the council has kept control of applications development and of the departmental systems which house the activities of the council's social services and libraries, Mr Fogarty says some or all of these functions will probably also be outsourced in the next wave of competitive tendering early next year.

"We may go for the same supplier if the business case is there; we may not," he says.

Health also accounts for a respectable £33 million share of the public sector outsourcing pot. Made up of the 14 regions, the NHS has, historically, managed a large chunk of the health sector's computing. Now, internal market changes, brought about by the recent structural reshuffle in the health service, are pushing busy managers in the direction of outsourcing.

The old district health authorities, which used to manage hospitals and community services, are being transformed into "purchasers" of health services, taking their "products" from the "providers", the hospitals. Separate units, so-called NHS trusts, are being set up to manage the provision of these services instead.

The two health service candidates for market testing are information technology and finance. Trusts will take on these services themselves, or outsource them.

Can't handle your information technology? Call the experts

The big City financial institutions have always been among the heaviest users of information technology. Now many of them are looking at the prospect of outsourcing either as customers or by using their computer knowledge to provide services to others.

A growing number of software houses and consultancies offer facilities management or outsourcing services aimed at the financial community. Participants in this relatively new market include EDS, Scicon from the software sector and Andersen Consulting from among the consultants. Market research

suggests that within five years the UK will spend £1 billion a year on outsourcing.

Last year the established companies were joined by Barclays Bank, which set up Barclays Computer Operations (BCO). This not only lends competitively for Barclays' own processing requirements but also offers services to other financial institutions.

Bruce Hotter, BCO's managing director, says his company's specialist knowledge puts it in a better position than the independent outsourcing companies to offer services to other banks and even potential competitors because it is

Financial institutions in the City of London are increasingly making use of outside companies to do their computer work

as deeply rooted in the financial community as it is in the information technology world.

Mr Hotter says: "We understand the demands that are being made on the financial community. For example, there are some very stringent controls coming out of the Bank of England that apply to the whole financial sector — the banks, insurance companies and building societies."

So far most of the work that BCO

undertakes is for its parent company. Outside contracts "hardly register yet" and account for only about 1 per cent of business, Mr Hotter admits.

None of the other main banks has been as adventurous. "My impression is that the others either wish they had thought of it first or say that we are out of our minds," Mr Hotter says.

Other city institutions are frequently turning over their comput-

er systems to be run on their behalf. The London Stock Exchange has been a large user of computer power for 20 years but it has now largely abandoned its involvement with the technology and handed over the lion's share of the task to Andersen Consulting.

This particular contract, however, is not the type in which the whole of the computing department — buildings, machines and staff — are handed over lock, stock

and barrel to another outsourcing provider.

Only computing staff have been transferred to Andersen and the Stock Exchange has retained ownership of both the buildings and the machines.

The main reason for contracting out the processing was that, although the systems are old, they perform vital functions that it is essential to keep running.

"It is a little embarrassing that we should have allowed our systems to get into that state at all," says Jane Barker, the finance director of the Stock Exchange. "But we needed both to change them and to keep

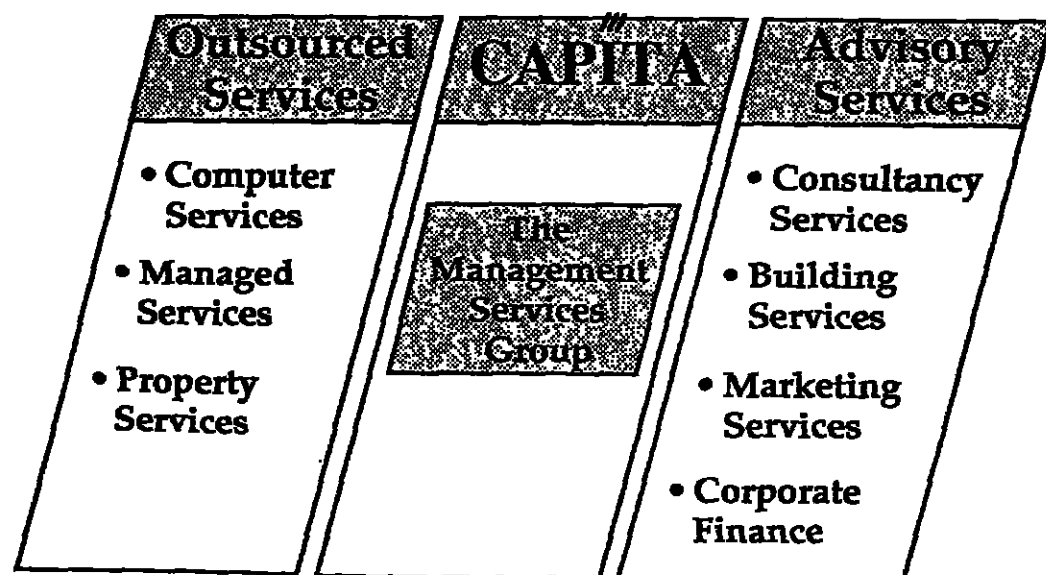
running. There is no way that a traditional facilities supplier could replace our kit because it is so old. Much of the knowledge is therefore held in the heads of the people who have been working with it."

Another problem with many outsourcing deals is that the employees of the company outsourcing the system are fearful of their future employment prospects under a new management structure. Ms Barker admits that the changeover was difficult. "You cannot go through this sort of exercise without some pain for the staff," she says.

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The giants invade the pitch

When IBM moves into a market, heads turn. David Guest on the impact of big league players

One of the more tiresome of the computer industry's clichés is the assertion that when the huge and influential IBM takes its first steps in any new sector of the information technology market, it "legitimises the market".

What this forelock-tugging often means is merely that IBM has been a bit slow off the mark. But the late arrival of IBM and others in facilities management and outsourcing has been more deliberate.

"The major manufacturers stayed out because they saw it as a threat to their main lines of business," says Richard Bagelin, director of customer services for the French-owned computer maker Bull. "Those that formed the market were not the traditional suppliers and they did so because of spare capacity or leverage from assets they already had."

The trail-blazers in facilities management and outsourcing have been specialist, independent providers of computer software and services, companies like Hoskyns, AT&T/Intel, EDS and Andersen Consulting.

"Hoskyns was for a long time the market leader," says Patrick Whale, senior IT partner at KPMG and the past president of the Computer Services Association. "It was a good business for them, and in large part it contributed to the market's success."

They have now been joined by companies often associated with computer manufacturing and by smaller operations that specialise in certain aspects of outsourcing. At the margin, members of the big six accountancy firms are showing increasing interest.

That computer suppliers like Bull, IBM, ICL, Digital Equipment (DEC) and others have been drawn in is not least because of the shrinking earnings from their traditional lines of business.

Market research identifies outsourcing as one of the few remaining growth markets in information technology — 30 per cent growth a year is a figure commonly touted.

"There are pluses and minuses in an expanding market," says Mike Anthony, chief executive of Ganton Synthesis, an outsourcing company that specialises in helping computer users to manage changes in their IT operations. "A number of organisations see a new opportunity and leap into it feet first. It gives credibility to the market if IBM is involved, but on the other hand people are jumping on the bandwagon and I'm concerned that it is becoming rather like the second-hand car market."

Mr Whale agrees: "There are now some signs of oversupply and dissatisfaction."

IBM, in the form of IBM Information Solutions, has been open for outsourcing business since March, although business director Paul Neale notes that IBM has been involved in outsourcing "in a reactive mode" since the late 1980s.

Mr Bagelin makes the same point. "We have been in it in a small way for two years, mainly in response to a request from customers or in systems integration."

That more companies are active in facilities management and outsourcing means a greater choice for computer users considering this route but it also means a more difficult choice. Opinion is divided over whether companies with large-scale manufacturing and

It's becoming rather like the second-hand car market

programming operations can be expected to be honest brokers in a services market.

Mr Whale remains to be convinced. "One thing clients expect, though it isn't always written down, is that they will get objective, impartial advice. For me, the acid test is: will companies like IBM and DEC really recommend another supplier's superior equipment to their clients?"

On the other hand, a recent survey carried out for 3Com found that a number of computer users did not regard the independence of their partners as an issue.

Mr Anthony suggests there are three main factors customers should look for in a service supplier



Patrick Whale: will companies like IBM and DEC really recommend another supplier?

— a strong balance sheet, a good track record, and people with the right qualifications. He suggests that there are only half a dozen companies capable of meeting these requirements.

In outsourcing, he adds, companies should have a very firm strategic plan covering the duration of an outsourcing agreement. Their supplier must be capable of demonstrating that it understands all the nuances of the applications systems in question. "You must insist on seeing the people who will be doing the work," he emphasises.

Not surprisingly IBM and Bull both argue that they can contribute unique advantages in providing such services. "In IBM, we have a

national and international capability," Mr Neale says. "We also have a knowledge and understanding of how technology is developing, and that can give us a substantial insight into how a customer should position itself."

"We have a flexibility within ourselves that the others don't have; for example, if a customer wants to go back in-house, we can help with that."

Mr Bagelin stresses that partnerships between suppliers may be equally important. The size of some public sector contracts, he says, is such that only one or two companies can tackle them single-handedly.

Mr Whale's main piece of advice

to companies thinking of using such services is straightforward. "If nothing else, make sure you can cope if it comes to divorce, as has happened."

"I would very strongly counsel people to look at computer sites where the service has been provided before," he says. "You should also crawl all over the contract, and be sure that it isn't an entrée to their taking over everything."

"You need to have a clear idea of what you want done and where to set the limits. And don't commit to too long on the first period of the agreement — three to five years seems too long to me to make commercial sense. What's wrong with a year to see if it works."

How strange the change...

Christmas came early for computer workers at the Bank of England. Earlier this year, 41 employees who ran the Bank's mainframe computer were made compulsorily redundant and received average pay-offs of £30,000. They then returned to their desks the following Monday morning as employees of another company.

This lucrative redundancy arrangement was the result of a £6 million management deal between the bank and Hoskyns, the computer services company that has taken over responsibility for the computers that handle government and high street bank accounts with the

long-standing employees of Granada Information Services (GIS) which provided computing services to many Granada companies, including the television station and TV rental chain.

A five-year contract was signed — again with Hoskyns — and the two, along with 150 colleagues, became Hoskyns employees. They now provide a variety of computer processing, systems development and support services back to Granada Group.

"Everyone involved in the takeover has begun to adopt the new company culture, rather than continue to think of ourselves as former employees of



Content: Ian Haddon (left) and Gary Sullivan

Granada," Mr Sullivan says. "I think it has become evident that people's career potential has been greatly improved."

Susan Spence joined the services company EDS-Scicon in 1984 when it took on Unilever Computer Services, a computing bureau which serviced Unilever subsidiaries. Now responsible for

managing other staff who have themselves been outsourced, Ms Spence has been using education and training to help people through the integration process.

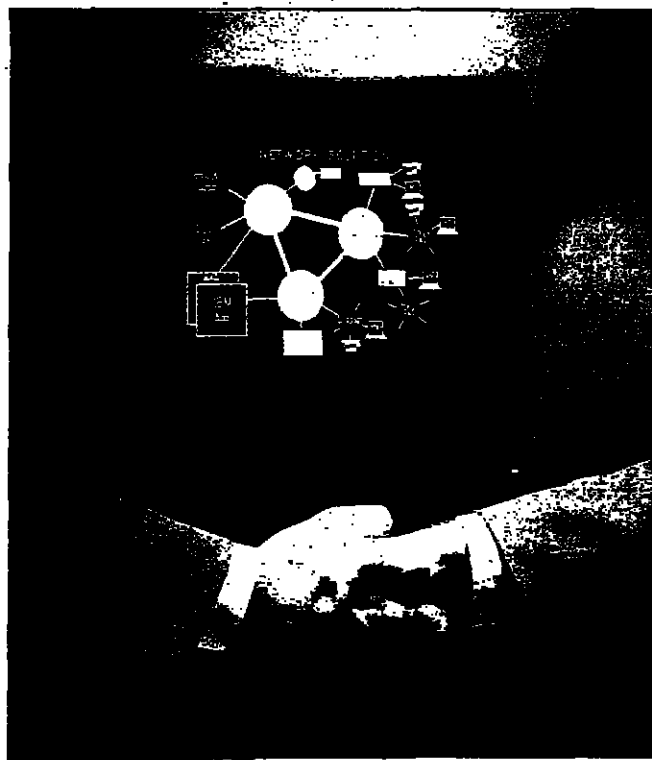
"It is a very confusing time," she says. "You're comfortable in your career, having found your niche in the organisation. Overnight, you're hit by the fact that you no longer work for that company and you're now working for another. It knocks the comfort factor for six."

Outsourced employees feel confusion and uncertainty. They're suddenly part of a new culture and not sure what the future holds for them.

"You can fight what's happening to you by trying to identify ways of keeping things as they were. Or you can accept change and work hard to understand the new organisation."

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مكتبة الامن الاسلامي

Twin Oaks on a high at Haydock

By MICHAEL SEELY

BOTH Gordon Richards and Neale Doughty remained convinced that Twin Oaks should miss the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup after the almost black gelding had recorded his seventh victory from eight starts over the Haydock fences in yesterday's Tim Molony Memorial Chase.

"Races like the Welsh National and the Grand National itself are suitable targets," said the trainer, after Doughty and Twin Oaks had survived a heart-stopping blunder at the second fence from home to beat Pao's Boy by five lengths.

"But above all he loves coming to Haydock and why stop him from what he loves doing best?" Richards asked. Once again, until he got too close to the third fence from home before hitting the next, Twin Oaks' jumping has been a joy to watch as he had measured his fences with accuracy and precision.

"He only made those mistakes because he got tired," said Doughty. "He's so big and strong that if he makes a mistake he destroys the fences. There's such an emphasis on jumping at Haydock, which is why he's so effective here."

Both trainer and jockey feel that attempting to give away weight to young horses of the calibre of Chateau and Jodami in such a competitive field as the Hennessy would hardly be an enjoyable experience for a 12-year-old.

But first they have to convince Twin Oaks' owner, John Moreton, a London businessman, who is currently on holiday in Barbados.

Not surprisingly, as his closest rival was 16lb out of the handicap, Twin Oaks started at 13-8 on. "If he doesn't go to Newbury, we'd like to bring him back here for either the three-mile Tommy Whittle or the four-mile Ronnie Johnson

Handicap at the next meeting. After that, we'd like to go to Chester."

The in-form Greystoke trainer went on to saddle his 40th winner of the season and land a double for the second day running when Doughty rode the 6-4 favourite, Abbot Of Furness, to an easy victory in the concluding Haydock Gold Card Hurdle.

Richards now has designs on Aintree's £30,000 feature tomorrow, the Crowther Homes Becher Chase, as he may take on Cool Ground with both The Antartex and Four Trix.

After yesterday's race, Twin Oaks was quoted at 25-1 for the Hennessy. The principal action in the market concerned Jodami as Wednesday's promising Haydock runner-up was backed from 10-1 to 7-1 with Hills and from 8-1 to 7-1 with Coral.

Rather surprisingly, as French trainer Francois Doumen had made it plain that The Fellow will miss Newbury if the ground is any worse than good to soft, last season's Gold Cup runner-up was still well backed with Ladbrokes from 8-1 to 7-1.

Further, on the Newbury big-race front, Toby Balding said that Wednesday's Haydock disappointment, Romany King, will be an absentee. "Richard Guest said that the horse was never carrying him. He could go for either the Rehearsal Chase at Cheltenham and the SGB Chase at Ascot."

Ascot's three-mile feature on December 19 is now also a likely objective for Kings Fountain after his fall behind Tipping Tim in last Saturday's Mackeson Gold Cup.

"He's still a bit stiff and bruised," said Kim Bailey. "We don't think he'll be ready to run in either The Rip or the Manicou Handicap at Ascot on Saturday."



Absent star: Kings Fountain, seen winning at Ascot, misses two tempting engagements there tomorrow, and waits instead for the SGB Chase next month

Piggott pays double tribute

RODRIGO De Triano was one of the best horses ever and Mr Brooks one of the best trainers ever, according to their jockey, Lester Piggott.

He paid tribute to the two colts after receiving the Carriker award of merit on Wednesday night in recognition of his outstanding contribution to racing.

Piggott has made a remarkable recovery just two weeks after fracturing a collarbone and breaking two ribs in a fall from the ill-fated Mr Brooks in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Gulfstream Park, Florida.

Reflecting on a season which yielded eight group one victories for the 11-times champion, Piggott said: "Rodrigo De Triano was like his father, El Gran Senor, one of the best middle-distance horses there has ever been."

"Mr Brooks was so game and consistent. He ran in five group one races and was never worse than second. The last time he sadly died on the battlefield of racing."

Piggott added: "I would like to thank my wife and family for their support during the most unhappy experience of losing Mr Brooks."

The newly-crowned Cartier European Horse of the Year, User Friendly, will be aimed at the Eclipse Stakes next year.

Her owner, Bill Gredley, is keen to demonstrate the versatility of his high-class filly. "I would like to find out how good she really is," Gredley said.

User Friendly, trained by Clive Brittain, won the English and Irish Oaks and St Leger this season, ridden each time by George Duffield.

In-form Morley Street poised to complete speedy double

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

MORLEY Street, who won the Coral-Ellie Hurdle at Cheltenham last Sunday, makes a quick return to active duty at Ascot today in the Racecall Hurdle, which he has won for the past two seasons.

His trainer, Toby Balding, reports that the former champion hurdler is as bright as a button following his recent victory over his younger brother, Granville Again, and that he is poised to make his class tell yet again.

Tyrone Bridge is the only member of today's opposition who approaches Morley Street's class on form.

Yet he has beaten six lengths at Cheltenham last Sunday when Richard Dunwoody decided that the moment was right for Morley Street to seize the initiative.

Interestingly, Tyrone Bridge finished further behind Granville Again at Cheltenham than he did on the two occasions they met last season.

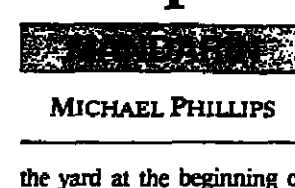
On the other hand, Morley Street looks as good as ever and he should be capable of beating Tyrone Bridge again, albeit on 4lb worse terms.

Later in the afternoon, Richard Dunwoody will doubtless be expecting another profitable ride on Billy Bathgate in the Hurst Park Novices' Chase.

Well as this nice young jumper won on his chasing debut at Kempton, where he outpaced the redoubtable Shu Fly, I still feel that he is liable to be outspurred on this occasion by Sybilin, who is my nap.

Whereas Billy Bathgate was no more than just a useful novice hurdler, Sybilin was capable of taking on and beating some of the best, which he did at Kempton and Cheltenham last season.

Like all of Jimmy Fitzgerald's horses, he then lost his way because a virus plagued



the yard at the beginning of this year. However, in common with a lot of his stable companions, Sybilin has already shown himself to be hale and hearty again and he could not have been more impressive than when beating Knight's Spur by ten lengths to win his first race over fences, at Uttoxeter earlier this month.

Fighting Words, who has won both his chases at Wetherby this season, even though he is trained in Sussex, and What's In Orbit, a good second to Billy Bathgate's stable companion Travado at Newbury before falling next time out, will help to make this grade two race an even more informative affair.

A victory for Sybilin should trigger a double for his jockey, Mark Dwyer, who will be expecting to also capture the



Fitzgerald: team back in form after virus

Lion Gate Handicap Hurdle on Nodform Wonder. Dwyer partnered him to the first of his two facile victories this season.

Today's programme can begin with Glen Lockan, who has already won at Exeter and Kempton, completing a treble by landing the Bingley Novices' Hurdle.

Stephen Swiers recently finished third as Britain's representative in the Fegent international amateur riders series, which encompasses races both on the flat and over jumps.

He now looks set to crown that achievement by winning the Punch Bowl Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase on Norman Conqueror, his first ride in the royal colours.

Provided that Norman Conqueror does not take the wrong course, which happened on his seasonal debut at Uttoxeter, he should be the 389th winner for the Queen Mother since Monaveen set the ball rolling in 1949.

With Nigel Twiston-Davies' string currently in such fine form, no one should be surprised if the Charles Davis Novices' Handicap Chase is won by Grange Brake. The third leg of his stable's four-time at Perth in September, Grange Brake still features on a handy mark in this company.

At Leicester, David Nicholson can land the John O'Gaunt Novices' Chase with Fast Study, who was just caught by Soke at Worcester last time.

Steve Smith Eccles should be successful with Virkon Venture in the Knighton Novices' Hurdle.

Leicester on

Leicester was given the go-ahead to race today after passing a stewards' inspection yesterday.

MANDARIN	THUNDER
1.00 Glen Lockan.	1.00 Glen Lockan.
1.35 Norman Conqueror.	1.35 Captain Frisk.
2.10 Grange Brake.	2.10 FORT NOEL (nap).
2.40 Morley Street.	2.40 Morley Street.
3.10 SYBILIN (nap).	3.10 Billy Bathgate.
3.40 Nodform Wonder.	3.40 Nodform Wonder.

RICHARD EVANS: 1.00 GLEN LOCKAN (nap).
1.35 Norman Conqueror. 3.10 Fighting Words.
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 1.00 GLEN LOCKAN.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.00 RINGLEV NOVICES HURDLE (£3,054; 2m 4f) (7 runners)
101 560-311 GLEN LOCKAN 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
102 4-11 HURRICANE BLAZE 13 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
103 6-10 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
104 300-1 CAUTION REBEL 100 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
105 4-11 FORT NOEL 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
106 6-10 OVER THE POLE 16 (4) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
107 030-0 GREENWICH BARRI 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: GOLDEN ARCTIC 6-11-4 R. Dwyer 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

GLEN LOCKAN beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
HURRICANE BLAZE beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
BALBO BAGGINS beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
OVER THE POLE beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
GREENWICH BARRI beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

1.35 PUNCH BOWL NOVICES CHASE (Amateurs: £3,995; 3m 11yds) (5 runners)

301 311-0 NORMAN CONQUEROR 28 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
302 130-0 FORT NOEL 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
303 300-1 CAUTION REBEL 100 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
304 300-1 FORT NOEL 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
305 300-1 FORT NOEL 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
306 300-1 FORT NOEL 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
307 300-1 FORT NOEL 22 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: MR. FRISK 12-12-0 M. Amey 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

NORMAN CONQUEROR beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

2.10 CHARLES DAVIS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£7,959; 3m 11yds) (8 runners)

301 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
302 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
303 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
304 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
305 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
306 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
307 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: MR. FRISK 12-12-0 M. Amey 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

NORMAN CONQUEROR beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

2.20 WALTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,352; 2m) (5 runners)

1 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
2 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
3 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
4 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
5 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
6 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
7 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: MR. FRISK 12-12-0 M. Amey 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

NORMAN CONQUEROR beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

2.25 UNLIKELY LADS NOVICES CHASE (£2,174; 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
2 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
3 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
4 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
5 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
6 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
7 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: MR. FRISK 12-12-0 M. Amey 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

NORMAN CONQUEROR beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

FORM FOCUS

FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

2.40 RACECALL ASCOT HURDLE (Grade II; £14,377; 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
2 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
3 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
4 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
5 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
6 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
7 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: MR. FRISK 12-12-0 M. Amey 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

NORMAN CONQUEROR beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

3.10 HURST PARK NOVICES CHASE (Grade II; £8,848; 2m) (5 runners)

1 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 50
2 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 51
3 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 52
4 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 53
5 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 54
6 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 55
7 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 56

BETTING: 5-4 Glen Lockan, 100-30 Over The Pole, 7-11-4 Grange Brake, 12-11-4 Balbo Baggs, 30-1 Caution Rebel, 30-1 FORT NOEL, 30-1 Over The Pole, 30-1 Greenw. Barr.

1991: MR. FRISK 12-12-0 M. Amey 5-4 J. G. L. Lockan 5-4

FORM FOCUS

NORMAN CONQUEROR beat Mr. M. 10-1 in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
CAUTION REBEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).
FORT NOEL beat Mr. M. 10-1 in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton last time out (2m 4f).

3.40 LION GATE HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade II; £4,191; 3m) (6 runners)

1 400-1 BALBO BAGGINS 24 (5) (J. G. L. Lockan) 7-11-4. J. G. L. Lockan 5
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BBC1

6.00 *Coolfax* (57402) 6.30 *Breakfast News* (5695957)
 9.05 *Kilroy*. A topical discussion with Robert Kilroy-Silk (3231391)
 9.45 *Rose King*. And Peter launches *Children in Need* on this morning's game show (5) (561833)
 10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (7550440) 10.05 *Playdays*. For the very young (1) (5680049)
 10.30 *Good Morning*. ... with Anne and Nick. Anne Diamond and Nick Owen present a leisure guide, a romantic story and shopping advice. Including 11.00, 12.00 *News*, regional news and weather (42301440) 12.15 *Pebbles*. Jill Squires introduces the Puddle Olympics as part of *Children in Need* (5) (5600459) 12.55 *Regional News* and weather (7813078)
 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. (Ceebs) Weather (56778)
 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceebs) (5) (42221440)
 1.50 *Edorado*. Fun in the sun (1). (Ceebs) (5) (73865136)
 2.20 *Going for Gold*. The European quiz (5) (20824014)
 2.45 *The Flying Doctors: Rising Stuntown*. Drama series set in the Australian outback. Two Japanese businessmen want to buy property in Coopers Crossing. (5630556)
 3.30 *Cartoon Double Bill* (4520223)
 3.45 *Children's BBC: Bump* (1) (441339) 3.50 *Christopher Crocodile*. Cartoon adventures (3308552) 3.55 *Superbook*. Series exploring the human body (4509730) 4.10 *Chipmunks Go to the Movies* (5) (438391) 4.35 *Talk Two*. Sarah Greene reports on music on the radio (4225204) 5.00 *Newsround* (2567575) 5.05 *Byline*. Children's drama series. (Ceebs) (8514865)
 5.35 *Neighbours* (1). (Ceebs) (5). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster (120202)
 6.00 *Str O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceebs) Weather (223)
 6.30 *Regional News* magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours (1). (Ceebs) (5) (575)



Fundraising: Sue Cook, Andi Peters, Terry Wogan (7.00pm)

7.00-8.00 *Children in Need*. Terry Wogan and Sue Cook host this year's appeal. The pop groups Right Said Fred and Bananarama are among the celebrities who will be asking viewers to raise money for Britain's disabled and disadvantaged children (78533)
 7.15 *Custard Pie Shoot-Out*. Peter Simon and Shane Peters present a Puddle Olympics event. Meanwhile, former *Blue Peter* presenter John Noakes, Peter Purves and Valerie Singleton join John Leslie in *Search of Bill and Ben* (173488)
 7.30 *Regional Children in Need Update*. News of fund-raising activities across the country (564951)
 7.40 *The Children in Need Fund*. Peter Simon and Shane Peters present the fund-raising efforts of the children in need fund (755768)
 8.00 *Grab a Grand*. Frank Bruno referees as Noel Edmonds tries to grab a grand. The pop group Right Said Fred extends an invitation to lunch (1001)
 8.30 *Long Distance*. Bobby Davro hosts a karaoke contest for young impressionists from Wales and Northern Ireland (3378)
 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. (Ceebs) Regional news and weather (8136)
 9.30-10.00 *Children in Need*. In the final part of tonight's fund-raising marathon, *Birds of a Feather* stars Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph add a touch of burlesque glamour, the cast of *Casualty* present a musical number, and Jeff Banks hosts a *Children in Need Clothes Show*, including at 9.55-10.35 *Esther Rantzen* and Gavin Campbell honour children of courage and achievement (7340594)
 11.35 *Regional Children in Need Update*. Regional round-up (564136)
 12.00 *Cabaret Time*. Terry Wogan and Sue Cook introduce two hours of entertainment with the casts of West End shows *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Five Guys Named Moe*, rock star Robert Palmer, Beverly Craven and Tony Stanley. Bob Holness hosts the final of the Puddle Olympics (322518)
 1.15am *Regional Children in Need Programmes*. The latest progress (56306) 1.45 *Highlights*. Memorable moments (4109150)
 1.55 *Grand Total*. The money donated so far (318570) 2.00 *Weather*

BBC2

8.00 *Breakfast News* (4231117) 8.15 *Westminster* (675372)
 9.00 *Daytime on Two*. Educational programmes (2361070)
 2.15 *Sport on Friday*, presented by Helen Rolston. Racing from Ascot: 2.40 *Racecast* Ascot Hurdle Race; 3.10 *Hurst Park Novices* Stakes; 3.40 *Un Gato* Hurdle Race. Football: England v New Zealand in the last of a three-match series. Football: a review of the World Cup qualifying matches for the British teams Rugby Union: a preview of tomorrow's match between Wales and Australia. (563910). Including at 3.00 *News* and weather. 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather (1420646)
 4.00 *Catchword*. Paul Cola hosts the word game (5) (488)
 4.30 *Behind the Headlines*. Shyama Parra reviews the week's stories on the media and the arts (372)
 4.50 *Delta*. The first of a six-part guide to the Yuletide fare Delta prepares festive puddings (1). (Ceebs) (5688)
 5.30 *Top Gear*. Chris Cofey test drives new diesel cars (1) (5) (562)
 6.00 *Stingray*. Classic underwater puppet series. (Ceebs) (676117)
 6.25 *The Man from Uncle*. Juliet Mills appears in tonight's episode of the 1950s spy romp. Starring Robert Vaughn (1) (564558)
 7.15 *Dr Who: The Dalek Invasion*. The first of a five-part story from 1971, recently restored to colour. Starring Jon Pertwee (1) (5) (802488)
 7.40 *What the Papers Say*, presented by Alistair Campbell of the *Daily Mail* (76900)
 8.00 *Public Eye*. Tug of Love. Neil Dickson reports on children who are snatched from their homes and taken abroad (5643)
 8.30 *The Living Garden*. Starting Out. Geoff Hamilton presents the first of five programmes on how plants grow. (Ceebs) (8778)



Following in Carter's tracks: Christopher Frayling (9.00pm)

9.00 *The Face of Tutankhamun: The Great Adventure*
 CHOICE: Christopher Frayling presents a five-part series pegged to the seventieth anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter. Tonight's programme is a profile of Carter up to that point. Archive film and extracts from Carter's notebooks tell the story of a week and a half when Carter worked. The other is historical background on ancient Egypt, but perhaps that will come as the series progresses (516881)
 9.50 *Sister Wendy's Odyssey*. The first in a six-part series in which Sister Wendy Beckett, a nun for more than 20 years, travels around Britain in search of art treasures. (Ceebs) (722338)
 10.00 *Have 1-2-3*. News from the West. Angus Davidson presents the satirical news quiz. Ian Hancox and Paul Martin are joined by Sandi Toksvig and Nick Hancock (5) (56933)
 10.30 *Newsnight* with Sue Cameron (563391) 11.15 *Weather* (923812) 11.20 *Film: Breathless* (1959, b/w)
 CHOICE: Jean-Luc Godard's first feature is both a homage to the Hollywood thriller and a daring technical experiment by a young filmmaker determined to break the cobwebs of what he saw as a staid and ossified French cinema. The freshness that still pervades the film after more than 30 years derives from the fluid hand-held camera work, the use of natural locations and the semi-improvised dialogue. The narrative style, too, departs from the classical model with a mixture of long takes and sudden cuts, which annihilate time. Jean-Paul Belmondo plays a small-time gangster who shoots a policeman and goes on the run, with Jean Seberg as his American girlfriend. The plot, by Godard and François Truffaut, is pure pastiche. What matters is the style and the energy and enthusiasm for cinema (30425)
 12.50am *Behind the Headlines* (as 4.30pm) (2180179). Ends at 1.25

ITV LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* (568055)
 9.25 *Keynotes*. Music game hosted by Alister Givall (4974730) 9.55 *Thames News* (564646)
 10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Viewers air their opinions (2837389)
 10.35 *This Morning*. Today's programme looks at the American influence on fashion, and Anne Robinson offers consumer advice including at 10.55 *ITN News* headlines. 11.55 *Thames News* and weather (56231338)
 12.10 *Reinbow*. Early learning series (1) (2045827)
 12.30 *ITN Lunchtime News* with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler. (Ceebs) Weather (3823778) 1.05 *Thames News* (56371381)
 1.15 *Home and Away*. (Ceebs) (351407)
 1.45 *A Country Practice*. Australian medical drama (5) (350778)
 2.15 *Highway to Heaven: Hello and Farewell*. A two-part story starring Michael Lonsdale as the embittered angel (4766622) 3.10 *ITN News* headlines (9135136) 3.15 *Thames News* (9134407)
 3.20 *GP*. Michael is getting on Julie's nerves (5411846)
 3.50 *Children's ITV: Scooby Doo*. Cartoon adventures (1) (452827)
 4.05 *Astro Farm*. Sam's car disappears (5) (5609117) 4.15 *Victor and Hugo* (5) (4373730) 4.40 *Knightmare*. Medieval dungeon game show (8411265) 5.05 *Porky Pig*. Cartoon (1) (5625834) 5.15 *LWT News* and weather (2014778)
 5.40 *ITN Early Evening News* with John Suchet. (Ceebs) Weather (705707)
 6.00 *Home and Away* (1). (Ceebs) (391)
 6.30 *Park High*. The second of a three-part series about life in a suburban comprehensive looks on as the cast of the school play prepares for the first night (1) (643)
 7.00 *Family Fortune*. Comedian Les Dennis hosts the game show. In the last of the present series, the James family from Bristol play the *Adventures from Sunderland*. (Ceebs) (5) (7049)
 7.30 *Coronation Street*. (Ceebs) (8227)
 8.00 *Game to Seed*. Comedy-drama series about the Plant Imps. Hide nurses her broken heart, Winston organises a wrestling contest and Monty devises a country and western singalong. With Alison Steadman, Jim Broadbent and Warren Clarke. (Ceebs) (5) (5391)
 9.00 *Crime Monthly*. Paul Ross presents appeals and updates from around the country, including news of last month's arrests and video footage from in-store surveillance cameras (2027)
 10.00 *News at Ten* with Trevor McDonald. (Ceebs) Weather (563691) 10.35 *LWT News* (564914)
 10.40 *The London Programme*. A report on the fight by London's top casinos for the world's richest gamblers (533488)
 11.10 *In Bed with the Doctor*. The comedian Bob Aspinall targets a satirical look at life. Featuring nurses from the Brompton (567555)
 11.45 *Dial Midnight*. Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Norman host a live phone-in, with James White (611372)
 1.10 *Bob Down Under*. The Ozzy comedian presents a wry cultural guide to Australia (4935131) 1.55 *Get Stuffed* (533458)
 2.05 *TXT*. Richard Hopkins presents European chat (102005) (5264334)
 3.05 *ChenAttractiva*. American film news (4131266)
 3.35 *Raw Power*. The latest rock videos (5) (425753)
 3.55 *Baseball '92*. Major League action (4664628)
 5.30 *ITN Morning News* with Tim Nelson (41022). Ends at 6.00



Singing along: Clark, Broadbent and Steadman (8.00pm)

VideoView and the Video PlusCodes
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CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Cartoons* (70562) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (38001)
 9.00 *You Bet Your Life*. Quiz show with Bill Cosby (5) (63136)
 9.30 *Schools* (291759)
 12.00 *The Parliament Programme* with Anne Perkins (43372)
 12.30 *Sesame Street*. The guest is actor-director Tim Robbins (92004)
 1.30 *The Herbs*. The cartoon adventures of Parsley the lion (5253914)
 1.45 *The Changers*. Science-fiction puppet series (1) (5253046)
 2.00 *Film: Sadie McKee* (1934, b/w). Tear-jerker starring Joan Crawford as a maid who falls for a millionaire. With Gene Raymond and Franchot Tone. Directed by Clarence Brown (542223)
 3.40 *New York, New York*. The Big Apple seen through a variety of photographic lenses (1511310)
 4.00 *Traveling*. Wednesday's programme (1). (Teletext) (5) (556)
 4.30 *Fifteen to One*. William G. Stewart with the quick-fire quiz (440)
 5.00 *Cutting Edge*. A portrait of the House of Lords (1) (7662)
 6.00 *Blossoms*. The Letter. Comedy series about a teenage girl in a male household (5) (833)
 6.30 *Happy Days*. Live and Learn. The Forz (Henry Winkler) teaches car mechanics at Jefferson High. (Teletext) (265)
 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather (747643)
 7.50 *First Reaction* with rapper Michael Fennell (5) (956933)
 8.00 *Brookside*. Soap set in a Merseyside close. (Teletext) (5) (4339)



All about winning: Rita Smallburn and her prize (8.30pm)

8.30 *Short Stories: The Comper Queen*
 CHOICE: A documentary that given its subject could hardly go more fittingly than to the subject of the subject. Rita Smallburn, who enters 30 competitions a year and seems to win an extraordinary number of them, her routine is to scan supermarket shelves for the magic word "win" on bottles and packets, collect the necessary labels and then use snappy punchlines to such slogans as "I buy my Ribena from Sainsbury's because ...". It sounds simple enough, but when it comes to competitions Rita is a true class. Her winnings, to date include 34 holidays, four cars and a house worth £50,000, which she quickly sold for double the price. Rita's story is interwoven with one from the other side of the fence as Campani invites customers to devise a suitable name for a carnival queen. The prize is a trip to Rio. Rita duly buys her bottle but will she be on the plane? (3846)
 9.00 *Spirit of Trees*. In the 10th of eight programmes Dick Warner investigates tree-worship in Britain (1846)
 9.30 *Cheers: Fairy Tales Come True*. Sick American comedy starring Ted Danson and Shelley Long. The Boston bar is the venue for a Halloween party (99049)
 10.00 *Nurses*. Black comedy set in a Miami hospital from the creator of *The Golden Girls*. A former boyfriend of Julie's is dying of AIDS. (Teletext) (5) (4001)
 10.30 *Chick Anderson Talks Back*. Tonight's guests are Harry Enfield, Ned Sherrin and Lady Colin Campbell (66407)
 11.10 *The Town*. Terry Christian talks to Oliver Reed and Katie Puckrik meets Tom Spelling of *Beverly Hills, 90210* (5) (826952)
 12.10am *VideoView and the Video PlusCodes*. A guide to the video recorder (1814150)
 12.25 *Film: Morgan*. A Suitable Case for Treatment (1965, b/w)
 CHOICE: Very much a piece of the 1960s, *Morgan* is a surreal comedy with a dark underside which came from a television play by David Mercer. The Morgan of the title (David Warner) is a Marxist-anarchist teetering on the edge of madness who is determined, through a succession of bizarre pranks, to prevent his snobbish ex-wife (Vanessa Redgrave) from marrying art dealer Robert Stephens. It is a free-wheeling, uninhibited film in which a basically serious message tends to get concealed behind a barrage of stylistic tricks, with director Karel Reisz losing no opportunity to punctuate the narrative with slow motion, jump cuts, frozen frames and other fashionable effects. The broadness of the comedy is emphasised in the casting of such stars as Irene Handl, Bernard Bresslaw and Arthur Mullard (12658)
 2.10 *Twilight Zone: Last Rites* of Jeff Myrtleford (b/w). A corpse comes back to life (9683421)
 2.40 *American Football*. The week in review (3111228). Ends at 3.05

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except 2.15pm-3.10. The *Gutenberg* Inheritance (478852) 3.30-3.50 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

BORDER
 As London except 1.45pm *Children of the Sea* (30778) 2.15-3.10 *Dorchester* (478852) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

CENTRAL
 As London except 1.15pm *A Country Practice* (561407) 1.45 *Home and Away* (560204) 2.15-3.10 *Dorchester* (478852) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

GRANADA
 As London except 1.15pm *A Country Practice* (561407) 1.45 *Home and Away* (560204) 2.15-3.10 *Dorchester* (478852) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

ITV WEST
 As London except 1.15pm *A Country Practice* (561407) 1.45 *Home and Away* (560204) 2.15-3.10 *Dorchester* (478852) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

ITV WALES
 As London except 1.15pm *A Country Practice* (561407) 1.45 *Home and Away* (560204) 2.15-3.10 *Dorchester* (478852) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

TSW
 As London except 2.15pm *Discovering*

GARDENS (2025495) 2.40-3.10 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

ITV
 As London except 1.15pm *The Garden* (478852) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

TYNE TEES
 As London except 1.15pm-3.10 *Film: 13 East Street* (721422) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

YORKSHIRE
 As London except 1.15pm-3.10 *Film: 13 East Street* (721422) 3.30-4.00 *The Young Doctors* (561156) 4.10-4.30 *Movies*. Movies (560204) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (120201) 10.45 *First Take* (564440) 11.15-11.55 *Anglia News* (56553)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
 Via the Astra and Hotbird satellites
 8.00am *DIY Show* (567778) 8.40 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 11.30 *News* (567778) 12.00 *News* (567778) 12.30 *News* (567778) 1.00 *News* (567778) 1.30 *News* (567778) 2.00 *News* (567778) 2.30 *News* (567778) 3.00 *News* (567778) 3.30 *News* (567778) 4.00 *News* (567778) 4.30 *News* (567778) 5.00 *News* (567778) 5.30 *News* (567778) 6.00 *News* (567778) 6.30 *News* (567778) 7.00 *News* (567778) 7.30 *News* (567778) 8.00 *News* (567778) 8.30 *News* (567778) 9.00 *News* (567778) 9.30 *News* (567778) 10.00 *News* (567778) 10.30 *News* (567778) 11.00 *News* (567778) 1

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 1992

Taylor recognises the important influence of Lazio's midfield maestro

England need Gascoigne's genius

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

IF PAUL Gascoigne's performance in the 4-0 win over Turkey on Wednesday is anything to go by, the speed and comfort of England's journey towards the next World Cup finals will be conditional on his availability.

As long as he is in a side specifically designed to promote his talent, England could travel first-class to their intended destination — the United States — in 1994.

If Gascoigne is temporarily indisposed, the progress promises to be faltering. Should his absence be prolonged, an essentially second-class outfit would be unlikely to maintain sufficient impetus, on a route pockmarked with too many dangerous pitfalls, to emerge as one of the two nations to qualify from group two.

Gascoigne has acted as a catalyst, transforming England from the negative to the positive. Without him last summer, a confused bunch of moderate representatives finished seventh in the European championship.

With him at Wembley on Wednesday, a compact and purposeful unit achieved their biggest win for 3½ years.

That was also at home in a World Cup qualifying tie and, by coincidence, it was then that Gascoigne made his initial impact. Introduced as a substitute a month short of his 22nd birthday, he scored his first international goal in the 5-0 victory over Albania.

In those days, before he wrecked his right knee and almost his career, he was

being groomed by Bobby Robson for one of the two central midfield roles. The other was eventually filled by David Platt in a formation that reached the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, revealed yesterday that he was never convinced that the partnership was ideal. He felt Gascoigne should be released from defensive duties and allowed to operate in a free role behind the front two.

Since Gascoigne ruined the theory before it could be put into practice, the experiment was carried out instead with the only other Englishman capable of acting the part, John Barnes. Although it worked instantly and convincingly, against Argentina in May last year, he was also subsequently badly injured.

The plan had to be dropped and, as Taylor searched vainly for an adequate alternative, England lost their shape, their way and their stature. Hence, the national manager was prepared to take the risk of recalling Gascoigne ahead of schedule for the opening qualifying tie against Norway last month.

The restoration process started in the nick of time. Instead of falling out of contention, England have climbed into second place in their group and, for the first time, in 18 months, are giving the impression they know what they are doing and where they are going.

They are not a one-man band and Gascoigne, to his credit, recognised as much when he refused to accept his award as the man of the match



Hand signals: Taylor indicates England's winning margin over Turkey at Wembley on Wednesday

on Wednesday. Nevertheless, his reappearance has lifted the morale of the squad, focused the minds of the team and cemented the collective sense of purpose.

Dixon and Pearce, victims of justifiable criticism earlier this season, were inspired full backs against Turkey. Even Walker was prompted to indulge in unprecedented raids into the opposition territory and he was responsible for fashioning Gascoigne's second goal.

"There was a nice, warm feeling in the dressing-room," Taylor said. "Everyone was so pleased with his own contribution and with the overall team performance that, for the first time, I felt like a club manager

again. Pity we can't play another game next week."

The camaraderie has been created principally by the two jokers, Gascoigne and Palmer, with their infectious sense of fun and Taylor's instinctive reluctance to break up the party.

What happens, though, if Gascoigne is unavailable? Barnes, who is soon expected to return with Liverpool, remains a possible option but there can be no guarantee he will recover fully from a ruptured Achilles tendon. "We might have to bring in a wide player," Taylor mused.

"For two years, we've been

trying to eke out results without Gascoigne. You find yourself saying: 'Please God, don't let anything go wrong with him.'"

□ Ford, the motor company, which was rejected as a potential sponsor of the Premier League, has become part of a £12 million support package for ITV's European Cup coverage.

Mars, Philips and Nike have also signed a deal that will see the television company recoup almost a third of the £4 million they have paid UEFA for the right to show Rangers live.

Taylor's dilemma, page 42
Scotland's task, page 42

Ireland earn respect of Spanish

By Peter Ball

IRELAND'S goalless draw in Seville on Wednesday ensures that they will go into the new year leading their World Cup qualifying group. By revealing the paucity of a main rival, it also confirmed their position as group three favourites.

"They are in the strongest position now," Butragueño, the Spain forward, said yesterday. Denmark's win over Northern Ireland in Belfast on Wednesday night leaves the Spanish already behind in the race.

Although Ireland have fulfilled their target of a point apiece from the visits to Copenhagen and Seville, Jack Charlton, their manager, was reluctant to assume anything yesterday. "We've played four games," he said. "There are still eight to play. There is a lot of football still to be played, and I still think it will be close in the end."

Charlton's caution is understandable. But Ireland are not in pole position by accident. They are the best team in the group on form and there is no reason to expect that the new

year will bring a significant change. On Wednesday they were clearly the better side, demonstrating yet again that constant challenge, unremitting effort, resilience and organisation are too much for all but the best.

"They are so difficult to play against because they never give you any time or space," Butragueño said, with reluctant admiration.

It was too much for Spain. The mass of flag-waving spectators failed to inspire Butragueño and Salinas, and the recalled veterans were substituted before the end. But the real Spanish failure came in midfield, which was dominated by Roy Keane, whose performance is expected to add Real Madrid to the list of clubs monitoring his progress.

For all Ireland's dominance, once again they failed to score. That owed something to a linesman's decision to rule out Aldridge's late strike, but, with Ireland's failure to qualify for the 1992 European championship still fresh in his memory, it is something to concern Charlton as he awaits Northern Ireland's visit to Dublin for the next group match in March. He is trying to organise a game, possibly with Germany, in February.

Meanwhile, Spain's decision to ignore Fifa regulations and admit about 10,000 spectators to their terracing will now be considered by the game's world governing body. Fifa will receive a report from their official observer, Viatcheslav Kolosov, of Russia.

Sean Connolly, the chief executive of the Football Association of Ireland, said yesterday: "Kolosov was not happy with what was allowed, and we will wait until he has made his report before we complain."

Swedes keep Wilkinson waiting

LEEDS United's attempt to sign two of Sweden's most talented defenders could end in failure (Ian Ross writes).

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, had hoped to complete the transfers of Joachim Björklund and Patrik Andersson, both 21, for a combined fee of £1.1 million. But Anderson is unhappy about financial aspects of the contract offered to him. "If Leeds pay peanuts, all they'll get is monkeys," he said. His reluctance to commit himself may influence the decision of Björklund, a close friend.

"I understand the problems of young players moving from one country to another and have told them to go away and think about everything very carefully," Wilkinson said.

Exeter City were yesterday banned from dealing in the transfer market by the Football League. The embargo was made following a complaint by the Professional Footballers' Association.

It is believed to involve a signing-on fee due to Gary Chapman, who moved from Notts County for £15,000 nearly 15 months ago.

Mick Quinn, one of nine Newcastle United players placed on the transfer list this week, has joined Coventry City on loan. Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, has talked with his Newcastle counterpart, Kevin Keegan, about the possibility of making the move permanent.

Neil Webb's return to Nottingham Forest should be completed tomorrow. The Manchester United midfielder player had asked for time to reconsider the £800,000 deal but he is now expected to agree to it.

Crowe says he was ordered to carry on



Crowe reluctant

Auckland: Martin Crowe, the New Zealand cricket captain, made it clear yesterday that he had been directed against his wishes to continue his country's tour of Sri Lanka.

On Monday a bomb exploded and killed five people outside the Colombo hotel where the New Zealand team was staying. Initially the tour was called off when a vote revealed that the party was evenly split between those wanting to stay and those wanting to go. The decision was reversed after Peter McDermott, the New Zealand Cricket chairman, flew to Sri Lanka, although the coach and five players returned home. Four replacements leave here today.

Crowe, who was visibly upset, told the TV3 network yesterday that he would rather go home. He said no further vote had been taken among the party since McDermott arrived.

Asked if he had been directed to continue, he replied: "That's right". Asked if the departing players had been important, he replied: "Absolutely, they're vital players. The replacements will come over and do their best but if they were good enough they would have been here in the first place."

Tomorrow in *The Times*: the full first-class cricket fixtures for next season

The players who joined Warren Lee, the coach, in returning to New Zealand are Willie Watson, Gavin Larsen, Dipak Patel, Mark Greatbatch and Rodney Latham. The four replacements are John Wright, Michael Owens, Justin Vaughan and Grant Bradburn.

Wright, a former New Zealand captain, had originally made himself unavailable for the tour. He is New Zealand's leading run-scorer in Test cricket. Bradburn first played Test cricket in Pakistan in 1990-1. Owens and Vaughan have yet to play Test cricket. (AFP)

Cut-price tickets, page 40

Tiriac says all tennis is not recession-proof

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

JUDGING by the stream of dollars being poured down the throats of multi-millionaires here yesterday, tennis has yet to be parched by the worldwide recession. In the morning came the announcement that the prize money for the indoor tournament in Stuttgart in February has been increased to a staggering \$2.25 million, the highest of any event on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour.

A few hours later, Mark Miles, the chief executive of the ATP, confirmed that the 87 events on the 1993 tour would have total prize-money of \$55.6 million, an increase of 13 per cent. "We are experiencing solid growth, despite the recession," Miles said.

Just how solid that growth is depends on who you listen to. Not all of the 87 tournaments on next year's calendar are financially sound and Ion Tiriac, for one, feels that many will find it hard to attract sponsorship in the future. "The solid tournaments will get bigger," he said. "But many others will disappear. The recession hurts very much right now. It could get very ugly."

Not that Tiriac, who reputedly turned down a chance to become prime minister of his native Romania last month, is squealing with pain. While Boris Becker and Steffi Graf are still in the public eye, Germany remains a buoyant market and Tiriac has taken advantage of a strong sponsor and the support of the two players he manages, Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic, to give the tail of the ATP an embarrassing twist.

Having provided a televised package of nine events for 1993, each worth an average of \$1.7 million, the ATP has had its own efforts derailed by Tiriac, whose ATP tournament in Stuttgart offers more money and therefore more ranking points — the winner could earn 450 points — than any of the nine Super Series events. Much to the disgust of the International Management Group, which markets the television rights to the tour, Tiriac has also retained the rights to sell his own event outside Germany.

"There are too many rules on the tour," Tiriac said.

"They are trying to copy the US franchise system, like baseball and American football. But tennis is not like that. There are 80 different countries playing it."

Of more immediate concern is Tiriac's claim that tennis is becoming "like ping pong". "Artists", like Nastase and Sampras, would not get started now because there is no time for players to think. "They just have to hit the ball back harder," he said. "The courts have to be slowed down."

The main offender on that score was Tiriac's own event in Stuttgart this year, which was played on a fast carpet ideally suited to the big serve of Ivanisevic.

The glimpses of the future in the opening three days of the ATP championship in the Festhalle, have tended to confirm Tiriac's fears. Richard Krajick and Jim Courier on Wednesday plodded through nearly three hours, two tie-breaks and 38 games with a mere three breaks of service before Courier's stamina proved decisive. Krajick, though, kept his hopes alive with a 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 win over Michael Chang last night.

Chang took the first set as Krajick shook off the effects of his long struggle the previous day. A fall midway through the first set further slowed Krajick, who needed regular treatment on his left knee for the remainder of the match, which was decided by the Dutchman's superior serving in the tie-break.

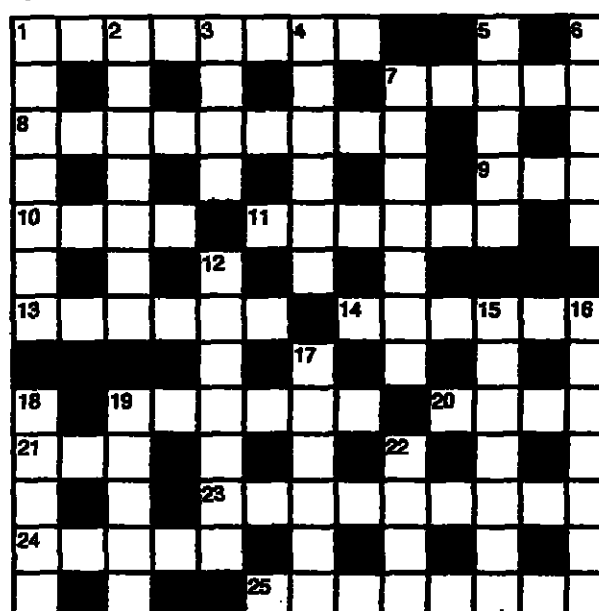
In the other group, Stefan Edberg faces an all-or-nothing final group match against his oldest rival, Boris Becker, tonight, after defeat by Sampras, the defending champion, who became the first player to qualify for the semi-finals with a 6-3, 5-6, 7-5 victory.

Becker restored some of the pre-tournament faith by beating Petr Korda 6-4, 6-2 in a match which ended at just past 1am.

RESULTS: Nov 19: San Marino 0, Norway 2; Holland 1, Poland 1; Turkey 0, San Marino 0; Norway 2, England 1; Norway 1, Holland 2; Poland 2, Turkey 4; San Marino 1; England 4, Turkey 0.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2950



ACROSS

- 1 Oliver - Lord Protector (8)
- 7 Purgative tree (5)
- 8 Cope with (9)
- 9 Wildebeest (3)
- 10 Mass (4)
- 11 Stockpile (6)
- 13 Poverty (6)
- 14 Means (6)
- 19 High spot (6)
- 20 Indigo source (4)
- 21 Spoil (3)
- 23 Star-gazing (9)
- 24 Period (5)
- 25 Not called upon (8)

DOWN

- 1 Yellow psalms (7)
- 2 Chest seat (7)
- 3 Black yellow stinger (4)
- 4 Approach (4,2)
- 5 Chancy (5)
- 6 Poner (5)
- 7 Modified (7)
- 12 Coming (7)
- 15 Chicken house (7)
- 16 Held up (7)
- 17 Speed (6)
- 18 Shatter (5)
- 19 Lobster trap (5)
- 22 Budd, athlete (4)

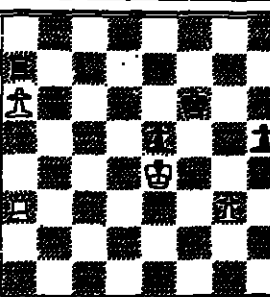
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2949

ACROSS: 1 Weir 8 Universe 9 Pick up 10 Sparse 11 Boon 12 Bachelor 15 Decadent 17 Wan 18 Gharry 21 Gorgon 22 Quibbler 23 Heal

DOWN: 1 Serpentine 2 Broken 3 Culpable 4 Digs 5 Menace 6 Isis 13 Category 14 Optional 16 Aerobe 17 Worthy 19 Haul 20 Yell

By RAYMOND KNEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is a possible variation from the game Fischer - Spassky, Belgrade (Game 21) 1992. To have a rook placed behind a passed pawn, as white does here, is a huge plus in the endgame. What is white's most clear-cut route to victory?



Solution on page 40

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Alcom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Demeter on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

By PHILIP HOWARD

UKORIOUS

- a. On-like
- b. Doting on a wife
- c. From beyond the Urals

ANDROPHOBE

- a. Hating men
- b. A scarecrow
- c. The Mediterranean horset

Answers on page 40

HEBDOMAD

- a. Half mad
- b. The dromedary's hump
- c. A week

LUCUBRATION

- a. Pedantic and laboured writing
- b. Celebratory rations
- c. Rearing wolf cubs